



## Lawmakers decry deplorable lockups for migrant kids

Associated Press

**CLINT, Texas (AP)** — Lawmakers on Friday were calling for swift change after reports this week of more than 250 infants, children and teens being held inside a windowless Border Patrol station, struggling to care for each other with inadequate food, water and sanitation.

It's a scene that is being repeated at other immigration facilities overwhelmed with too many migrant children and nowhere to put them.

"This facility wasn't even on our radar before we came down here," said law professor Warren Binford, a member of the team that interviewed dozens of children this week detained in Clint, about a half-hour drive from El Paso. Fifteen children had the flu, another 10 were quarantined.

At another Border Patrol station in McAllen, Texas, attorney Toby Gialluca said all the children she talked to last week were very sick with high fevers, coughing and wearing soiled clothes crusted with mucus and dirt after their long trip north.

"Everyone is sick. Everyone. They're using their clothes to wipe mucus off the children, wipe vomit off the children. Most of the little children are not fully



This June 20, 2019, frame from video shows the entrance of a Border Patrol station in Clint, Texas. A legal team, that interviewed about 60 children at the station near El Paso, says young migrants being held there are experiencing neglect and mistreatment at the hands of the U.S. government.

Associated Press

clothed," she said.

Gialluca said migrant teens in McAllen told her they were offered frozen ham sandwiches and rotten food.

At both detention facilities, the children told attorneys that guards instructed girls

as young as 8 to care for the babies and toddlers.

State and federal elected officials Friday demanded change about conditions at Clint, McAllen and other Border Patrol stations. There was plenty of angry finger-pointing as well.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott slammed Congress as "a group of reprobates" for failing to provide adequate border security funding.

"Every child who is not being taken care of adequately at the border, Congress is an accomplice

to any harm they suffer," he said.

Oregon's Sen. Jeff Merkley pushed the Department of Homeland Security to publish a remediation plan "to immediately end these abuses."

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# After calling off strikes on Iran, Trump suggests patience

By DEB RIECHMANN, LOLITA C. BALDOR and ROBERT BURNS

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Donald Trump said Friday he abruptly called off the swiftly planned military strikes on Iran because the likely deaths of 150 Iranians would have been so out of proportion to the shoot-down of an unmanned American surveillance drone. He also indicated he still hopes for talks with Iranian leaders rather than any escalation of military conflict.

"I am in no hurry," he wrote on Twitter, adding that increasingly severe sanctions meant to push Iran to the nuclear negotiating table are "biting" the Iranian economy.

The aborted attack was a stark reminder of the potential for the escalating tensions of the past year between the U.S. and Iran to lead to full-scale conflict, even as the president repeatedly insists he does not want war and wants to negotiate with the Islamic Republic over its nuclear



President Donald Trump speaks during a meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in the Oval Office of the White House, Thursday, June 20, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press

program.

Iran on Friday showed no public inclination to negotiate, and it was unclear whether Trump, who said the U.S. military had been "cocked and loaded" to hit Iran, was considering new military options. After Iran downed a huge Navy

surveillance drone over the Strait of Hormuz, Trump alternately denounced it as a "big mistake" and dismissed it as a "fly in the ointment."

Iran insisted the U.S. drone violated Iranian airspace; Washington said it had been flying over international waters when it was hit by an Iranian missile. Iran said it recovered debris in its waters. The U.S. military said Friday that although debris from the destroyed drone was spread across a wide area, none had yet been recovered by American forces, who were encountering high winds and heavy seas.

In a television interview, Trump said the U.S. was within 10 minutes of conducting strikes against Iran on Thursday when he canceled the operation. He told NBC News that he never gave a final order — planes were not yet in the air but would have been "pretty soon."

He said military officials came to him about 30 minutes before the strikes were to be launched and asked him for his final approval. Before signing off, he said he asked how many Iranians would be killed and was told approximately 150.

"I thought about it for a second and I said, 'You know

what? They shot down an unmanned drone, plane — whatever you want to call it — and here we are sitting with 150 dead people. That would have taken place probably within a half an hour after I said go ahead. And I didn't like it. I didn't think it was proportionate." Trump's assertion that he learned only at the last minute of his military advisers' casualty estimate does not align with the usual way a president is briefed on military attack options. An assessment of the likelihood of casualties, whether civilian or military, and a broad estimate of the number, normally are a major element of each option provided to the commander in chief. Iran addressed the subject of casualties, too. Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, the head of the Revolutionary Guard's aerospace division, said Friday that a U.S. spy plane with around 35 crew members was flying close to the unmanned U.S. Navy RQ-4A Global Hawk that was shot down, but that Iran chose not to target the manned aircraft. He said Iran warned the drone several times before downing it with a missile. The president's decision to call off the attack is a reminder that despite the escalation in tensions between Washington and

Tehran in recent weeks, there is a realization that military action, once under way, can quickly lead to unintended consequences, including large-scale war.

Asked how he was weighing his options, Trump said in a meeting with congressional leaders Thursday, "My gut," according to a person familiar with the exchange. Trump has said repeatedly he does not want war with Iran, but he has offered little insight to his strategy, beyond inviting Iran's leaders to call him to reopen nuclear negotiations.

His administration last year pulled out of the 2015 international agreement intended to curb the Iranian nuclear program, an agreement he strongly criticized as ineffective during his presidential campaign. He demanded negotiations for a new agreement, but there have been none. Pressuring Iran, he launched a campaign of increasing economic pressure against the Islamic Republic, including cutting off its oil export revenues.

The current crisis comes at a tumultuous moment at the Pentagon, where the acting secretary of defense, Patrick Shanahan, is stepping down this weekend. Mark Esper, the civilian head of the Army, will take over on an interim basis on Monday and will fly to NATO headquarters in Brussels for meetings this week to discuss the way ahead on Iran.

Katie Wheelbarger, a senior Pentagon policy adviser on international security, said Friday the administration wants to keep the allies informed, including on the intelligence information that prompted the U.S. to send an aircraft carrier and other military assets to the Gulf region in early May in response to what it called heightened Iranian threats. "It's very important to the (defense) department and the U.S. government as a whole that we make sure our allies are as cognizant, and that we are as transparent on this issue as possible," she said. □

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Continued from Front

He gave them a deadline of July 12, tweeting: "Children are being held in appalling and unacceptable conditions. Detained children are being left to care for each other - including, in one case, a two-year-old who was left with no diapers. @DHSgov needs to tell us what their plan is to fix this, NOW."

Republican Congressman Will Hurd, whose district includes Clint, said the tragic conditions "further demonstrates the immediate need to reform asylum laws and provide supplemental funding to address the humanitarian crisis at our border."

His Democratic counterpart, Congresswoman Veronica Escobar of El Paso, said she has already asked the Customs and Border Protection commissioner for a "full accounting" of the situation.

And Democratic Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand blamed the Trump administration's mismanagement of the nation's immigration system. "This is a dark moment for our country, and history will not be kind to the perpetrators of this cruelty," Gillibrand said. "All Americans should be alarmed and demand an end to this immediately."

Border Patrol stations are designed to hold people for less than three days, but some children held in Clint and McAllen have been in there for weeks. Legally, migrants under 18 should be moved into Office of Refugee Resettlement

care within 72 hours.

But federal officials have said they have hit a breaking point. That's in part because over the last year, migrant children have been staying longer in federal custody than in the past, leading to a shortage of beds in facilities designed for longer-term stays.

The lawyers inspected the Border Patrol facilities as part of a Clinton-era legal agreement known as the Flores settlement that governs detention conditions for migrant children and families.

In an emailed statement Friday, Customs and Border Protection said the agency leverages its limited resources to provide "the best care possible to those in our custody, especially children."

The statement said "our short-term holding facilities were not designed to hold vulnerable populations and we urgently need additional humanitarian funding to manage this crisis." In addition, the agency said all allegations of civil rights abuses or mistreatment are taken seriously and investigated.

Earlier this week, acting Customs and Border Protection Commissioner John Sanders urged Congress to pass a \$4.6 billion emergency funding package that includes nearly \$3 billion to care for unaccompanied migrant children.

He said Customs and Border Protection stations are holding 15,000 people — more than three times their maximum capacity of 4,000. □



In this June 7, 2019, file photo, people cross the Rio Grande into the United States to turn themselves over to authorities and ask for asylum, as seen from Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico, opposite El Paso, Texas.

Associated Press

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This Sept 10, 2010, file photo shows people lining up to enter the Bergdorf Goodman store, in New York.

Associated Press

## Trump faces new sexual assault allegation; he issues denial

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A New York-based advice columnist claims Donald Trump sexually assaulted her in a dressing room at a Manhattan department store in the mid-1990s, according to a first-person account published Friday by New York magazine. Trump denied the allegations and said, "I've never met this person in my life." The allegation against Trump by E. Jean Carroll is included in her upcoming book about the "hideous men" that the Elle magazine columnist says she has encountered throughout her life.

Carroll wrote that after what started as a friendly encounter with Trump at Bergdorf Goodman in 1995 or 1996, the real estate mogul pushed her up against a dressing room wall, unzipped his pants and forced himself on her. Carroll said that in a "colossal struggle," she pushed him off and ran from the store.

In his statement, Trump called the accusation "fake news" and said there was no evidence.

"No pictures? No surveillance? No video? No reports? No sales attendants around?? I would like to thank Bergdorf Goodman for confirming they have no video footage of any

such incident, because it never happened," he said. The Trump Organization, which Trump still owns, did not respond to a request for comment from The Associated Press, which has not independently verified Carroll's account.

Carroll did not immediately return a call for comment. During the 2016 presidential campaign, more than a dozen women accused Trump of sexual misconduct in earlier years. Trump has denied the allegations and said the women are lying. While those cases generally involved groping and kissing without consent, Carroll alleged forced penetration.

Carroll, now 75, wrote in her book excerpt on the magazine's website that Trump recognized her as "that advice lady" as he arrived at Bergdorf Goodman on Fifth Avenue just as she was leaving. She said Trump invited her to help him buy a present for an unidentified "girl" and she agreed.

Carroll said that after Trump suggested a purchase of lingerie or underwear, he grabbed a bodysuit and urged Carroll to try it on. After some joking around about which one of them should try it on, Trump led Carroll to a dressing room, where, she alleged, Trump

pushed her against a wall, pulled down her tights and assaulted her in an episode that lasted under three minutes.

Carroll said there were no attendants in the dressing room area and she did not file a report with the New York Police Department. She said she did, however, tell two journalist friends, one of whom urged her to contact the police while the other advised her to keep quiet, citing Trump's access to lawyers.

New York magazine said it confirmed the accounts of Carroll's friends but it did not identify either individual by name.

Trump was caught on tape in 2005 boasting of grabbing women by their genitals and kissing them without permission. When the tape became public weeks before the November 2016 general election, Trump said he never acted in any of the ways described on the tape, and described it as just "locker-room talk."

In March, a New York state appeals court ruled that Summer Zervos, a former contestant on Trump's reality TV show "The Apprentice" who accused him of unwanted kissing and groping, can move forward with her defamation lawsuit against him. □



The Supreme Court is seen under stormy skies in Washington, Thursday, June 20, 2019.

Associated Press

## Justices: Proof needed that person knew he couldn't have gun

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Supreme Court says prosecutors must prove that people charged with violating federal gun laws knew they were not allowed to have a weapon. The government says the decision could affect thousands of prosecutions of convicted criminals who are barred from having a firearm.

The court ruled 7-2 Friday in the case of a foreign student from the United Arab Emirates who took target practice at a Florida shooting range, even though he had been dismissed from the Florida Institute of Technology and was in the United States illegally. He was prosecuted under a law that bars people who are in the country illegally from having guns. Prosecutors never proved that the student, Hamid Rehaif, knew he couldn't have a gun, and lower courts ruled they didn't have to.

The same law is also an important tool to keep guns away from convicted criminals. There were more than 6,000 convictions under the law during the government's 2017 fiscal year, according to the U.S. Sentencing Commission.

Justice Stephen Breyer wrote in his majority opinion that the law at issue requires prosecutors to show both that the person had a gun and knew he

shouldn't. Otherwise, Breyer said, the law could ensnare someone "brought into the United States unlawfully as a small child and was therefore unaware of his unlawful status." Justice Samuel Alito wrote in a dissent that was joined by Justice Clarence Thomas that the decision "opens the gates to a flood of litigation that is sure to burden the lower courts."

The gun violence prevention group Everytown for Gun Safety had joined the Trump administration in urging the court to reject Rehaif's arguments.

"We are concerned today's ruling will make it harder for law enforcement to impose accountability when people keep or acquire guns they're legally barred from possessing, including due to felony and domestic violence convictions," said Eric Tirschwell, Everytown's litigation director.

Rehaif was sentenced to 18 months in prison.

Friday's decision may not be the last word in his case. Lower courts will take a new look at its details, including the school's telling him his student visa would no longer be valid unless he transferred to another school. Prosecutors say Rehaif ignored the warning and instead spent months at a hotel in Melbourne, Florida, never re-enrolling in school. □





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U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania William McSwain, center, speaks with members of the media at a news conference at the U.S. Custom House in Philadelphia, Friday, June 21, 2019.

Associated Press

## Cocaine haul from ship grows, arrests now stand at 6

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Federal authorities have upped the amount of cocaine they seized from a ship at the Philadelphia port to more than 35,000 pounds, or 15,876 kilograms, making it the largest cocaine haul in the history of U.S. Customs, authorities said Friday.

They put the street value of the drugs at \$1.1 billion. Laid end to end, the bricks of cocaine would stretch about 2 ½ miles, or just over 3 kilometers, said Casey Durst, director of field operations in the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Baltimore field office.

The investigation has now resulted in the arrests of six crew members, all of whom are due for federal court hearings Monday. They have all been charged with conspiracy to possess cocaine aboard a ship, and each has been appointed a federal public defender.

"You thought you could breeze to our port and

leave with enough cocaine to destroy millions of lives without getting caught. You thought you were clever. You were wrong," said U.S. Attorney William McSwain, whose office is handling the prosecutions. "You underestimated the city, you underestimated our law enforcement capabilities, and you underestimated our commitment to decimate the evil and immoral drug trade."

Agents on Friday were still inspecting containers aboard the MSC Gayane, a cargo ship owned by Swiss firm MSC Mediterranean Shipping Co. which was sailing under a Liberian flag. MSC is a Swiss-based shipping company, one of the world's largest shipping lines in terms of containers, McSwain said. A message seeking comment from the shipping line on the latest charges wasn't returned Friday. McSwain said his office is considering all available options, including the possible forfeiture of the ship. □

## APNewsBreak: California regulators launches anti-illegal pot campaign

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD

Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Marijuana shoppers are going to be getting a message from California regulators: Go legal.

Aiming to slow illegal pot sales that are undercutting the nation's largest licensed market, California is kicking off a public information campaign — Get #weedwise — that encourages consumers to verify that their purchases are tested and legal.

Ads will be hitting social media sites and billboards promoting a state website where shoppers can quickly check if a shop is licensed — CApotcheck.com.

The advertising campaign makes a simple argument: You don't know what you're getting if you buy illegal products.

One ad says, "What's in your weed shouldn't be a mystery. Shop licensed cannabis retailers only."

The new push in the fight against illegal cannabis sales will be formally announced Friday at a Los Angeles forum featuring industry leaders, regulators and elected officials.

The campaign "will directly impact consumer safety by clarifying that only cannabis purchased from licensed retailers has met the state's safety standards," Bureau of Cannabis Control Chief Lori Ajax said in a statement.

The ads are also intended to telegraph a warning to illicit shops and underground growers: Get licensed to operate in the legal market, or shut down. California kicked off broad legal sales Jan. 1, 2018. But the illegal market has



This undated artist rendering provided by the Bureau of Cannabis Control shows a proposed billboard urging consumers to purchase cannabis from only licensed retailers.

Associated Press

continued to thrive, in part because consumers can avoid steep tax rates by buying in unlicensed dispensaries.

But there's a trade-off for saving a buck. Illegal products have not met strict state testing standards and could be tainted by mold, pesticides, heavy metals — even human waste.

"Do you know what's hiding in your counterfeit edibles?" one ad asks. "Shop licensed cannabis retailers only."

Agency spokesman Alex Traverso said the ads are part of a three-pronged campaign to eventually corral illegal sales — the others are enforcement, including shutting down illegal shops and farms, and

quickly licensing businesses that want to enter the legal economy.

The state is spending an initial \$1.7 million on the campaign and hopes to "get it in front of as many eyeballs as possible," Traverso said.

The state has been under pressure by the legal industry to do more to stop illegal sales. By some estimates, Los Angeles has hundreds of illegal shops and cultivation sites.

No one is predicting the campaign will bring illicit sales to a halt, but it's being seen as another step to aid legal businesses as the state transitions from what was once a largely illegal economy into a multibillion-dollar, regulated marketplace. □

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# Democrats look to other lawsuits to block GOP lame-duck laws

**MADISON, Wis. (AP)** — Wisconsin Democrats trying to undo laws passed by Republicans during a lame-duck session just before Gov. Scott Walker left office are putting their hopes behind a federal court challenge following a resounding legal defeat Friday.

The conservative-controlled Wisconsin Supreme Court, breaking 4-3 along ideological lines, upheld the lame-duck session during which Republicans passed laws limiting the powers of incoming Democratic Gov. Tony Evers and Attorney General Josh Kaul. Most of the laws — enacted just weeks before Walker left office after his November defeat — have been reinstated and are in effect while the legal challenges proceed.

The case decided on Friday turned on a procedural challenge to the calling of the session itself. A pending federal case gets at the laws passed, arguing that they violate the U.S. Constitution's free speech and equal protection guaran-



In this June 20, 2019, file photo, Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers, surrounded by Democratic lawmakers and members of his Cabinet at a Capitol news conference, is urging Republicans who control the Legislature to pass a state budget that includes Medicaid expansion and more money for schools, in Madison, Wis.

Associated Press

tees, among other rights. Vincent Levy, an attorney for the Wisconsin Democratic Party in that lawsuit, said he was disappointed with the state court's ruling, but that he was confident "the federal courts, reviewing our claims with independence, will see things

our way, and rule that the lame-duck laws unconstitutionally struck core principles of our democracy." Evers' attorney Tamara Packard said that given the current makeup of the state Supreme Court, political disputes such as those involving the lame-duck

legislation may be better fought in federal court.

There is another case being fought at the state level brought by unions challenging the laws before the Wisconsin Supreme Court. A federal judge has also separately blocked one provision that limited early

voting, which was taken up as part of a larger case challenging laws approved prior to the lame-duck session.

A group of liberal-leaning organizations led by the League of Women Voters sued in January alleging the laws are invalid because legislators convened illegally to pass them in December. The groups maintained the Legislature's session had ended months earlier and that the lame-duck floor session wasn't part of the Legislature's regular schedule.

But the Supreme Court declared that the Wisconsin Constitution gives lawmakers the authority to decide when to meet.

"The terminology the Legislature chooses to accomplish the legislative process is squarely the prerogative of the Legislature," the conservative majority wrote. Three liberal justices dissented, saying the Legislature went beyond what is constitutionally allowable when it convened the lame-duck session. □



Nathylin Flowers marches with protesters against solitary confinement at New York state correctional facilities, during a rally to urge New York state legislators to pass reform legislation at the state Capitol Wednesday, June 19, 2019, in Albany, N.Y.

Associated Press

**ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)** — New York is going to restrict the use of solitary confinement in state prisons, despite failing to pass legislation that would have prohibited putting a prisoner in isolation for more than 15 consecutive days.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and

Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, all Democrats, said Thursday they've agreed to "dramatically reduce" the use of solitary confinement by implementing changes administratively.

The deal would prohibit certain "vulnerable" prisoners from being put in solitary, including pregnant women and adolescents.

## New York to curtail use of solitary confinement in prisons

In a news release, they said they would "ultimately" cap the amount of time prisoners can spend in solitary confinement at 30 days. It says the agreement would increase training on implicit bias and de-escalation techniques.

There are about 47,000 inmates in the state's prisons. Cuomo, who has said he favors safer and more humane procedures, aired concerns earlier this week over the legislative proposal. The legislative plan, he said, would require the construction of new facilities and cost jails about \$1 billion statewide.

"The solution is often not as easy as the political rhetoric," he said Friday. Supporters of the proposal argued the legislation would not require any new jails. They also compare the

practice to torture and say solitary can leave lifelong psychological scars.

New York mental health professionals and advocates had also signed a proposal to restrict isolation.

A campaign pushing for the legislative measure issued a statement saying the measure would have passed if it received a vote. "As a result of this appalling act of cowardice people will continue to be tortured and will die. We are devastated," according to a statement from the #HALT-solitary Campaign.

The campaign said they had been given assurances the measure was a priority for both chambers.

Michael Powers, president of the New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association,

came out against the proposal and described it as "a direct attack on labor and the law enforcement community."

Through a spokesman, the association Friday declined to comment on the new agreement.

Alphonso David, counsel to the governor, said a 30-day limit on isolation will be implemented as soon as possible.

New York lawmakers have addressed other criminal justice reform topics this session.

A key item in the state budget eliminates cash bail for misdemeanors and nonviolent arrests. Another criminal justice reform item in the budget requires officers to issue appearance tickets, instead of taking someone into custody for low-level crimes. □





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## Explosions, fire rock U.S. oil refinery; gas prices could rise

By MATT ROURKE  
Associated Press

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Explosions and a blaze at the largest oil refinery on the East Coast sent a fireball into the sky and shook homes before dawn Friday, though authorities reported only a few minor injuries and said the air was safe to breathe.

The fire at the Philadelphia Energy Solutions Refining Complex was deemed contained and controlled but continued to burn late Friday afternoon, said Craig Murphy, deputy fire commissioner.

The fire broke out around 4 a.m., PES spokeswoman Cherice Corley said. Video showed the enormous orange blast bursting into the sky about 20 minutes later. Five refinery workers were treated for minor injuries, and nearby residents were asked to stay inside.

The cause of the fire was still unclear. Three explosions, felt miles away, went off as the fire worked its way through the tangle of pipes carrying fuel across the complex, Corley said. It happened at the Girard Point refinery, one of two at the PES complex in southern Philadelphia.

The fire happened at a tank containing a mix of butane and propane, Murphy said. The blaze was still being fed by a main, he said, but it was unsafe for workers to access the valve

to shut it off. If firefighters extinguished the blaze, the gases would continue to bleed into the atmosphere, he said.

"It is safer if it burns itself out; otherwise the product would be looking for an ignition source," he said. "Right now, it is contained and controlled."

Air samples taken both downwind and upwind from the refinery have been tested, and no threat to public safety has been found, the city's health department said in a statement.

The 150-year-old oil refining complex processes 335,000 barrels of crude oil daily, PES says. The refinery turns the crude into gasoline, jet fuel, propane, home heating oil and other products. It was the second blaze at the refinery this month, following a June 10 fire in which no injuries were reported.

Gasoline prices in the Northeast could rise over the next few weeks as a result of the explosion, but an increase isn't likely to last long, said Claudio Galimberti, a refining analyst at S&P Global Platts.

Thick black smoke billowed across the city after the fire started.

Jonathan Triboletti, of Hammonton, New Jersey, saw that smoke and the explosion when he and his mother were driving to the nearby Philadelphia Air-



Flames and smoke emerge from the Philadelphia Energy Solutions Refining Complex in Philadelphia, Friday, June 21, 2019.

Associated Press

port.

"I noticed the sky light up orange ahead of us for maybe 5 or 6 seconds," he said.

Triboletti said he even felt the heat in the car.

"It kind of made our skin crawl a little bit because we didn't know what was going on. It was something you normally see in a movie theater," he said.

It's unknown whether the explosions will cause any financial strain the oil markets.

"This is obviously not a good thing to happen in a jittery market, but U.S. refined product demand has been relatively weak," said Jim Burkhard, vice president for oil markets at IHS Markit. "So this is a disruption, but it's probably not going to cause major problems in a market that is generally well supplied." □

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# EU rules out reopening Brexit deal whoever replaces May

By **RAF CASERT**  
**PAN PYLAS**

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — The European Union insisted Friday that it will not reopen the Brexit withdrawal agreement with the U.K. government whoever succeeds Theresa May as British prime minister.

Jean-Claude Juncker, the president of the EU's executive Commission, said the bloc's leaders were unanimous in the view that the Brexit deal, which has been rejected three times by the British parliament, should not be reopened.

"We repeated unanimously that there will be no renegotiating of the withdrawal agreement," Juncker said in Brussels after a meeting of EU leaders excluding May.

He said the 27 leaders rebuffed any call from May's successor next month to restart the Brexit negotiations over the withdrawal agreement that deals with citizens' rights, the Irish border and how much money Britain owes the EU.

Donald Tusk, who is the president of the European Council and chairs meet-



European Council President Donald Tusk, left, and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker participate in a media conference at the end of an EU summit in Brussels, Friday, June 21, 2019.

Associated Press

ings of EU leaders, said there could be tweaks to the political declaration that accompanies the legally watertight withdrawal agreement. The declaration is vaguer but deals with a range of other matters including the outlines of a future trade relationship between the EU and Britain.

Britain was originally set to leave the EU on March 29 but because of the British Parliament's failure to back the deal that May agreed

with the EU, it has been granted an extension until Oct. 31.

Given that so much time has elapsed with little progress, it is likely that Brexit will have to be delayed further. However, some EU leaders said any new extension should only be granted to hold general elections in Britain or a new Brexit referendum.

"It's not possible (that) because you change the leader in the U.K. that we

need to postpone decisions," said Luxembourg Prime Minister Xavier Bettel. Worries of a "no-deal" Brexit have swelled during the race to succeed May. Boris Johnson, the favorite to prevail in the election of Conservative Party members next month, has indicated that he's prepared to go ahead with a "no-deal" Brexit.

Most economists think a sharp rupture with the EU, which accounts for around

50% of Britain's trade, will lead to a deep recession.

On Thursday, British Treasury chief Philip Hammond said a "no-deal" Brexit would damage the British economy and ultimately risk the breakup of the U.K., a reference to tensions in Scotland and Northern Ireland, both of which voted to stay inside of the EU.

The head of the Bank of England on Friday dismissed suggestions from Johnson that tariffs on trade with the EU can be avoided even if the country leaves the bloc without a withdrawal agreement.

Johnson has said Britain can rely on a provision in international trade rules to make sure trade relations remain unchanged.

Carney told the BBC that was not possible if there was no deal between the EU and Britain.

He said the legal provision — in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade — "applies if you have an agreement, not if you have decided not to have an agreement or have been unable to come to an agreement." □

# Thousands call for climate action, target German coal mine

By **FRANK JORDANS**  
**DOROTHEE THIESING**

Associated Press

**AACHEN, Germany (AP)** — Thousands of students from across Europe protested Friday near a coal mine in western Germany, urging governments to take bolder action against climate change.

Organizers said up to 20,000 protesters from 16 countries took part in the rally in Aachen, near Germany's border with Belgium and the Netherlands. Demonstrators carried banners with slogans like "Your greed costs us our future" and "Stop coal."

It comes a day after European Union leaders failed to agree upon a plan to make the bloc's economy carbon neutral by 2050. Several large European countries — including Britain, France and Germany



People take part in a 'Fridays for Future' protest rally in Aachen, Germany, Friday, June 21, 2019.

Associated Press

— have backed the target, but coal-reliant countries in the east, such as Poland, blocked consensus on the proposal, which entails an almost complete phase-out of fossil fuel use.

Friday's protest took place near the site of one of Germany's biggest lignite coal mines. The mine has become a focus of environ-

mental protests in recent years because its operator, the utility company RWE, threatened to chop down a nearby forest.

Further protests are expected at the site over the weekend. German police have mobilized hundreds of officers and a water cannon to prevent the vast, open-cast mine and adja-

cent power plants from being blocked by protesters.

The German government earlier this year approved a national plan to end the use of coal for electricity by 2038 but make up much of the shortfall with imported natural gas.

Activists say German can — and should — do more.

"Germany, among other industrial nations, is one of the countries mainly responsible for climate change," said protester Paula Maas, 21. "We do not feel the effects yet in comparison to the countries in the global south, and it is simply essential to take to the streets against it and to protest."

Following months of protests by students and a sharp rise in the polls for Germany's Green party, Chancellor Angela Merkel recently threw her weight behind the idea of making

the entire German economy climate neutral by 2050 — meaning no more man-made greenhouse gases would be added to the atmosphere.

Scientists say ending fossil fuel use by mid-century is a must if countries want to achieve the 2015 Paris climate accord's most ambitious goal of keeping global temperatures from rising more than 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) compared to pre-industrial times.

Speaking Friday after the end of the EU leaders' meeting in Brussels, Merkel noted that a "big majority" of the bloc's 28 nations now back that goal.

"A few others need to spend a bit more time working out what this means for their internal measures," she said, without calling out the countries by name. □



# Turkey: Erdogan's party dominance tested in repeat poll

Associated Press

**ISTANBUL (AP)** — Millions of voters in Istanbul go back to the polls for a controversial mayoral election re-run Sunday, as President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's party tries to wrest back control of Turkey's largest city. The high-profile vote is taking place because Turkey's top election authority ruled in favor of Erdogan's Justice and Development Party, AKP, and canceled the result of the March 31 vote for mayor of Istanbul, which had given a narrow victory to opposition candidate Ekrem Imamoglu. The decision cited a breach of laws concerning the composition of officials overseeing the vote.

The controversial decision fueled concerns over democracy and the rule of law in Turkey, a NATO member that is still formally a candidate to join the European Union. Turkey is also a key Western ally in the fight against terrorism and in stemming the flow of ref-



In this Wednesday, June 19, 2019 photo, supporters of Ekrem Imamoglu, candidate of the secular opposition Republican People's Party, or CHP, cheer as he speaks at a rally in Istanbul, ahead of the June 23 re-run of Istanbul elections.

Associated Press

ugees to Europe.

The race for Istanbul is seen as a test of Erdogan's popularity amid a sharp economic downturn, rising unemployment and high food prices. To its critics,

the Islamic-based AKP is entering the election with its democratic credentials dented for triggering the repeat vote.

The election is important because the city of 15 mil-

lion, straddling Europe and Asia, is Turkey's financial, commercial and cultural center, with a budget worth \$8.8 billion last year. "It's very risky for any political party to lose Istanbul,"

said Can Selcuki, general manager of the Istanbul Economics Research think tank. "The budget of Istanbul is larger than some sovereign GDPs of small countries."

The loss of Istanbul in March was a blow to Erdogan's 25-year dominance of the city as mayor and backer. He was born in the city and began his political career as mayor. He once famously said: "Whoever wins Istanbul wins the whole of Turkey."

Erdogan has dominated Turkish politics for the past 16 years, but a loss could put him on shaky political ground. News media reports suggest there is growing dissent within his party, with former party heavyweights including ex-President Abdullah Gul and former prime minister Ahmet Davutoglu reportedly preparing to launch break-away parties. The two men have openly criticized AKP for seeking a redo of the Istanbul vote. □

# Spain's top court convicts 5 men in gang rape case

Associated Press

**MADRID (AP)** — Spain's Supreme Court on Friday overruled two lower courts and sentenced five men to 15 years in prison for raping an 18-year-old woman. The case had triggered an outcry because the lower courts last year convicted the men of the lesser crime of sexual abuse and handed down nine-year sentences.

The public prosecutor, the victim and regional authorities appealed to the Supreme Court, asking for a rape conviction and longer sentences. The men's lawyers wanted them acquitted, arguing that the woman consented.

Women's rights advocates had expressed anger about what they saw as the lower court's leniency and the confirmation of that sentence by a second court. They have held national protests since the 2017 verdict.

Amnesty International welcomed the ruling.



Women protest after Spain's top court found five men known as the "La Manada," or "The Animal Pack" guilty of rape outside the Supreme Court in Madrid, Spain, Friday, June 21, 2019.

Associated Press

"We are delighted that justice has finally prevailed in this horrific case and that the rights of the survivor have been upheld," said Massimo Moratti, the human rights group's deputy director of the European regional office. "But the

journey to get here has been long, and caused the woman involved further unnecessary and avoidable suffering.

"This case shows exactly why it's so crucial for Spain's Penal Code to be amended," he said in a statement.

The judges heard both sides' arguments in a televised session Friday and gave their verdict after just two hours.

They said that, in accordance with legal precedent, the attack could be classified as rape, which

was aggravated by being performed in a group.

The victim didn't consent to the acts, the judges said, and was subjected to 10 acts of sexual aggression in "a genuinely intimidating scene." They found that the men also made videos of their attack.

Prosecutors said the men boasted about the 2016 attack during Pamplona's San Fermin festival on a WhatsApp group named "La Manada," or "The Animal Pack." The case brought widespread criticism from women's groups after the first court agreed to study a defense detective's report on the woman's behavior after the incident, which some said made it appear the victim was on trial.

Viviana Waisman, president of the international nonprofit organization Women's Link Worldwide, which pursues social change through the law, said that courts too often doubt the victims and fail to protect them. □



# Airlines reroute flights after Iran downs US military drone

By JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)** — Airlines rerouted flights Friday to avoid airspace near the Strait of Hormuz after Iran shot down a U.S. military surveillance drone there and American aviation officials warned that commercial jetliners could be mistakenly attacked amid tensions between Tehran and Washington.

Local long-haul carriers Emirates and Etihad were among those that changed flight routes in an area that is home to major hubs of global air travel. That could further imperil the bottom lines of Gulf long-haul carriers, which already have faced challenges under the Trump administration.

"The threat of a civil aircraft shootdown in southern Iran is real," warned OPSGROUP, a company that advises airlines, citing as an example the downing of a Malaysia Airlines jetliner over eastern Ukraine in 2014, killing all 298 aboard. The Federal Aviation Administration warned of a "potential for miscalculation or misidentification" in the region after an Iranian surface-to-air missile on Thursday brought down a U.S. Navy RQ-4A Global Hawk, an unmanned aircraft with a wingspan larger than a Boeing 737 jetliner and costing over \$100 million. The U.S. said it made plans for limited strikes on Iran in response, but then called them off.

The FAA gave a similar warning in May to commercial airliners of the possibility of Iranian anti-aircraft gunners mistaking them for military aircraft, something dismissed by Tehran some 30 years after the U.S. Navy shot down an Iranian passenger jet, killing 290 people.

Iran had no immediate reaction to the U.S. announcement.

The FAA said its warning would affect the area of the Tehran Flight Information Region. An FAA map showed that area extending from Iran's southern border roughly a dozen miles



Debris from what Iran's Revolutionary Guard aerospace division describes as the U.S. drone which was shot down on Thursday is displayed in Tehran, Iran, Friday, June 21, 2019.

Associated Press

out to sea along the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman and the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow connection between the two bodies of water through which 20% of the world's crude oil passes. "FAA remains concerned about the escalation of tension and military activity within close proximity to high volume civil air routes and the Iran's willingness to use long-range (surface-to-air missiles) in international airspace with little to no warning," the agency said. "As a result, there is concern about the potential for misidentification or miscalculation which could result in the inadvertent targeting of civil aviation."

The overall impact of the directive is rather minimal, said Ian Petchenik, a spokesman for the flight-tracking website Flightradar24, because avoiding that small portion of Iranian airspace is fairly simple from a technical perspective.

The few airlines affected would simply take northerly or southerly routes to avoid the area. He estimated that 100 flights might be affected in a 24-hour period. "Long story short, if this is the new status quo, some flights are going to be marginally longer," Petchenik said.

But Henry Harteveldt, a travel analyst at Atmosphere Research Group in San Francisco, said longer routes put in place after the 2014 Malaysia Airlines disaster added about 90 minutes of flying time — and critically, fuel burn — in each direction for flights between Europe and parts of Asia.

"That can turn a flight from being a profitable one to a loss," he said. "This is a big deal." Petchenik called the FAA statement "a cautious notice."

"This didn't come out of nowhere. The FAA had previously held that operators should be aware of tensions. They should acknowledge that there could be a risk to their aircraft. This is the logical step for them to take. It didn't come from nowhere. There should be no surprise on the air carriers' part," he added.

Qantas said it would reroute its London flights to avoid the Strait of Hormuz and Gulf of Oman. British Airways, KLM, Malaysia Airlines and Singapore Airlines said their flights would avoid the strait. Lufthansa said it would avoid both the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman, as well

as nearby land.

However, it said it would continue its flights to Tehran.

The Persian Gulf's long-haul carriers already have been battered by Trump's travel bans targeting predominantly Muslim countries, as well as an earlier ban on laptops in airplane cabins for Mideast carriers.

Emirates, the long-haul carrier in Dubai near the Strait of Hormuz, told AP it was "rerouting all flights away from areas of possible conflict." Its sister airline, the low-cost FlyDubai, said it "adjusted some of the existing flight paths in the region as a precautionary measure."

Etihad, based in Abu Dhabi, also said it would "change a number of the flight paths we operate."

Iran said the U.S. drone violated its airspace, while the U.S. called the missile fire "an unprovoked attack" in international airspace over the Strait of Hormuz. OPSGROUP said the Iranian weapons system that downed the drone was comparable to the Russian Buk system used against the Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777 in Ukraine.

"Any error in that system could cause it to find an-

other target nearby — another reason not to be anywhere near this part of the Strait of Hormuz," OPSGROUP said.

A U.S. official said the military had prepared limited strikes on Iran in retaliation for downing the drone, but approval was abruptly withdrawn Thursday night before the attacks were launched. The official, who was not authorized to discuss the operation publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, said the targets would have included radars and missile batteries. President Donald Trump said the U.S. was "cocked & loaded" to attack three sites in Iran before he halted the assault over concerns about casualties.

The drone incident heightened the crisis gripping the wider region, which is rooted in Trump withdrawing the U.S. a year ago from the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers and imposing crippling new sanctions on Tehran. Recently, Iran quadrupled its production of low-enriched uranium to be on pace to break one of the deal's terms by next week while threatening to raise enrichment closer to weapons-grade levels on July 7 if Europe doesn't offer it a new deal.

Citing unspecified Iranian threats, the U.S. has sent an aircraft carrier to the region and deployed additional troops alongside the tens of thousands already there. All this has raised fears that a miscalculation or further rise in tensions could push the U.S. and Iran into an open conflict, 40 years after Tehran's Islamic Revolution.

"If we had done this, how would have America reacted?" asked Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, the head of Guard's aerospace division, as he stood in Tehran near a display of debris that he said came from the U.S. drone. "If we had flown a drone near Washington, for example, would they allow us to get as close as 20 to 30 kilometers to their coasts? How would have they reacted?" □



# China's Xi pushes economic reform at North Korea summit

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN

Associated Press

**BEIJING (AP)** — Chinese President Xi Jinping offered encouragement for North Korea's focus on economic development in a speech in Pyongyang, turning to a topic Beijing has long pressed with its Communist neighbor amid wider concerns over the North's nuclear weapons program. In an address at a banquet Thursday night, Xi noted that the nation under leader Kim Jong Un had "initiated a new strategic line of economic development and improving people's livelihoods, raising socialist construction in the country to a new high tide," according to China's official Xinhua News Agency.

Xi left North Korea early Friday afternoon, Chinese state media reported. An image posted on the mobile app of state broadcaster CCTV showed people waving at his Air China Boeing 747 on the tarmac at the airport in Pyongyang.

Before leaving, Xi, accompanied by Kim and their wives, laid a wreath at a memorial to Chinese soldiers killed in the 1950-53 Korean War. China's intervention in the conflict prevented a rout of North Korean forces by troops from



In this Thursday, June 20, 2019, photo provided by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, fourth right, and Chinese President Xi Jinping, fifth left, meet at Kumsusan guest house in Pyongyang, North Korea.

Associated Press

the U.S. and others under United Nations command. "We will pass down the China-North Korea friendship from generation to generation, consolidate and develop the two countries' socialist cause, better enrich our citizens and advance regional peace, stability, development and prosperity," Xi was quoted as saying.

The North's long-moribund economy has shown some recent improvements, but it remains heavily dependent on aid — mainly from

China — and food security is a constant concern. China has agreed to U.N. economic sanctions over the North's nuclear and missile programs but is wary of any measures that could push its economy toward collapse, potentially unleashing instability and chaos on its border.

Xi's speech also touched on the nuclear issue, saying all sides agreed to "stick to peace talks so as to make even greater contributions to peace, stability and prosperity in the region and

the wider world," Xinhua said.

North Korean state media said Friday that Xi and Kim held broad discussions over the political situation surrounding the Korean Peninsula and reached a shared understanding on the issues they discussed. The Korean Central News Agency report did not give any specifics on the stalled nuclear negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang over disagreements in exchanging sanctions relief for disarmament.

"The supreme leaders ... broadly exchanged their opinions on the political situation of the Korean Peninsula and other serious international and regional issues," KCNA said. They assessed that deepening their relationship was in line with the "mutual interest of the two countries in face of serious and complicated changes in the environment and would be favorable for the region's peace, stability and development," it said.

In South Korea, the presidential Blue House welcomed Xi's visit to North Korea, saying it believes his talks with Kim will help promote peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.

Kim told Xi on Thursday that he has not received a desired response from Washington and that the U.S. should meet North Korea halfway to "explore resolution plans that accommodate each other's reasonable concerns," according to Chinese state media.

Xi said his government is willing to play a constructive role in the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. "The international community expects the U.S. and North Korea to continue to talk and achieve results," CCTV quoted him as saying. □

## A brief look at the history of Russia-Georgia relations

**MOSCOW (AP)** — Clashes between protesters and police in the capital of the ex-Soviet nation of Georgia have left more than 200 people injured, a bout of violence that was sparked by a Russian lawmaker taking the seat of Georgia's parliament speaker during an international meeting of lawmakers in Tbilisi.

The clashes reflected long-simmering tensions between Russia and Georgia. A look at some key events in Russia-Georgia relations: 1801 — The Russian Empire moves to annex Georgia following centuries of Ottoman and Persian domination. Russian troops defeat the Persian army during an 1804-1813 war.

1918 — Georgia proclaims its independence after the fall of the Russian Empire.

1921 — The Red Army occupies Georgia, setting the stage for its incorporation into the Soviet Union.

1990 — Soviet troops brutally disperse a pro-independence protest in the Georgian capital, leaving 21 dead and hundreds injured.

1991 — Georgia regains independence amid the breakup of the Soviet Union.

1991-1992 — Georgia loses control over part of its province of South Ossetia following a separatist conflict. Russian peacekeepers are deployed to the region.

1992-1993 — Another Georgian province, Abkhazia,

fights to secede from Georgia and becomes de-facto independent with Moscow's support.

2008 — Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili launches an offensive to restore Georgia's control over South Ossetia. Russia responds by sending troops which rout the Georgian military in five days of fighting. Moscow then recognizes both South Ossetia and Abkhazia as independent states and sets up military bases there. Russia and Georgia cut diplomatic relations and their economic ties freeze.

2012 — The Georgian Dream party led by Georgian tycoon Bidzina Ivanish-



Opposition demonstrators help a wounded man during a protest at Georgian Parliament to call for the resignation of the speaker of the Georgian Parliament in Tbilisi, Georgia, Friday, June 21, 2019.

Associated Press

vili, who made his fortune in Russia, defeats Saakashvili's National Movement in parliamentary elections. The

new Georgian government starts to gradually restore economic and other ties with Moscow. □



## UN human rights chief meets with Venezuela's Guaidó, Maduro

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— The United Nations' top human rights official met Friday in Caracas with Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó, who is locked in a prolonged struggle with President Nicolás Maduro for control of the crisis-racked country.

Emerging from the meeting, Guaidó said he spoke with U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet about the need to expel Maduro from power and end Venezuela's "suffering."

"May this visit serve to bring solutions to the catastrophe that this country is experiencing," Guaidó said on the steps of the opposition-controlled National Assembly. "This visit should serve to reinvigorate the fight in Venezuela."

Maduro, who will meet with Bachelet later in the afternoon, maintains that his rival's efforts have been part of a U.S.-backed coup intended to remove him from office and exploit the nation's vast oil.

Bachelet's first trip to the



U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, center, walks with Venezuela's self-proclaimed President Juan Guaidó, left, on the steps of the national assembly in Caracas, Venezuela, Friday, June 21, 2019.

Associated Press

South American country as chief of the U.N. watchdog comes amid heightened international pressure on Maduro for allegedly silencing opponents with jail, torture and excessive violence. A once-wealthy oil nation, Venezuela is now

experiencing a severe political and economic crisis that has driven a staggering 4 million people to flee. The government struggles daily to keep the lights on and provide reliable drinking water.

In his closed-door con-

versation with Bachelet, Guaidó said he emphasized that Maduro's government is still holding two opposition lawmakers in jail in addition to nearly 700 activists considered to be political prisoners.

Guaidó said the high com-

missioner also appeared deeply concerned about human rights abuses, noting that she spent several hours on her visit this week with victims of violations and their relatives. She proposed opening a temporary office in the country to monitor human rights issues and allow her representatives to visit other regions, Guaidó added.

Earlier this year, Bachelet issued a tough statement criticizing Maduro's government for harsh crackdowns on dissenters and reports of extrajudicial killings of poor, unarmed residents at the hands of security forces.

"I am also deeply concerned about the shrinking of the democratic space, especially the continued criminalization of peaceful protest and dissent," she said in the March statement.

Bachelet has already met socialist party boss Diosdado Cabello, the Supreme Court head and attorney general, and she will complete her three-day visit by speaking with Maduro. □

## Researchers confirm 1,600 secret graves in Mexico since 2006

By MICHAEL KRUMHOLTZ

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican researchers said Thursday they have confirmed the existence of 1,606 secret graves containing 2,489 bodies from 2006 to 2017, but that may just scratch the surface of the true numbers behind what the study called a "building phenomenon."

"Those are not all the graves ... Unfortunately, it's just a fraction," Denise González, lead coordinator of the study, said at press conference at Mexico City's Iberoamericana University.

The study found that Tamaulipas, Guerrero, Veracruz, Sinaloa and Zacatecas were the states with the most reported cases of secret graves, all places with a strong presence of organized crime groups.

University investigators worked alongside local human rights' groups to conduct the study that they



In this Oct. 15, 2018 file photo, wooden signs mark clandestine graves where almost 300 were found in Colinas de Santa Fe, Veracruz state, Mexico.

Associated Press

say shows the "deterioration of security" in Mexico. They criticized the country's Attorney General's Office and said the government gave inconsistent statistics on secret graves and bodies recovered.

"The Attorney General's Office is actively violating the rights of information and of memory," said Car-

los Dorantes of the human rights organization Article 19, which participated in the study.

Karla Quintana, the government's national search commissioner, said the new administration of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador inherited a "forensic emergency" when he took office Dec. 1. She added

the government is working on a digital database of disappeared persons, and said the president will meet Monday with families to update them on his administration's work to find and identify their missing relatives.

"We need to have this information to give answers to family members waiting on their loved ones," Quintana said.

She also highlighted a lack of resources, saying the commission has a "one-person team" in its archives department and is short on personnel to carry out the exhumations.

Leticia Hidalgo, whose son disappeared in Nuevo León in 2011, asked Quintana to locate those like her son.

"We don't have any more time. ... We urge you to go out and look," Hidalgo said. Quintana said she does not know exactly how many disappeared people there

are in Mexico. Roberto Cabrera Alfaro, her predecessor at the national search commission, estimated earlier this year that the figure likely is more than 40,000.

The 11-year period covered by the study begins with 2006, when then-president Felipe Calderón launched a militarized effort against drug cartels that set off an increase in killings.

Researchers said the alarming numbers of secret graves in the country are indicative of the rampant violence that goes unpunished.

"It is reflective of the level of social decay and dehumanization that the country has reached," the report reads.

López Obrador's administration released its first official report over the secret graves in May. Authorities reported having found 222 of them with 337 bodies between the administration's first day though May 13. □



# LOCAL



## Honoring of Friendly and loyal visitors at Costa Linda Beach Resort

EAGLE BEACH — Recently, ATA representative Marouska Heyliger had the great pleasure in honoring many loyal Aruba visitors with their distinctive certificates at the Costa Linda beach resort. These certificates are a way to say “Masha Danki” for continuously choosing Aruba as a favorite vacation destination.

The honorees were: **Larry and Marilyn** from Mississippi, **Marc Winkel and Grace Lai** from New York and **Donna and John Sullivan** from Massachusetts who have been honored as Goodwill Ambassadors.

Also honored was Elaine Donoghue from Massachusetts who received the certificate of Distinguished Visitor. All honorees love coming to the island for the beautiful beaches, friendly people and wonderful resort that is the Costa Linda Beach Resort.

Heyliger together with the representatives of Costa Linda Beach Resort presented the certificate to the honorees, and also handed over some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home away from home. □



## Aruba to Me

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Last but not least: check out our website and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

We received a great story from **Donna & Jack Sullivan** where they tell us why they love Aruba so much. :

Not knowing what we'd find twenty years ago, Jack and I flew to this amazing Island with tropical blue waters. Immediately, we felt a warm, hospitable presence from the Aruban people. Falling in love with the Island, we immediately purchased time-share ownership at Costa Linda.

As years went on, we not only purchased many more weeks at our Resort,

but also purchased in addition, our own three-bedroom condo on the Island.

So many new friends we've acquired over the years as well as our love and appreciation for all the hard-working employees at our Resort. A true family we have here!

There have been so many good times and fond memories over the years, even having the privilege and honor of becoming Costa Linda's first Carnival Queen in 2004. Yes indeed, the Sullivan family has become fond lovers of Aruba. □



## Asi Es Mi Peru restaurant launches Chef Table 5 Course Menu: "It feels like having dinner at home in Peru"



### Chef Table 5 Course Menu

Peruvian food is remarkable for the diversity of its ingredients. It might be best known for its ceviche, the marinated seafood dish, but bestsellers are also Lomo Saltado (stir fry strips sirloin), seafood rice and Pescado a lo Macho (fish of the day).

Roxanne explains that recently the Chef launched a 5-course Chef Table Menu.

"Now that we have standardized our typical Peruvian cuisine, we are ready to take it to the next level. Our Chef is very knowledgeable and we bring higher cuisine to the table." Of the 5 courses the first is the Tiradito Tres Regiones, and the 2nd the Majao de Yuca con Pargo Escabechado paired with a wonderful Santiago Ruiz Albarino;

The 3rd plate is a Cremosa de Quinoa con Aji Relleno paired with a Hahn Pinot Noir, the 4th the Lomo con Salsa de Hongos Andinos paired with a Merlot Santa Margarita, and the 5th a Crocante de Maracuya. Try this wonderful culinary experience!

Roxanne explains that the Peruvian food is influenced by different cultures.

"A lot of people came from China to work in the sugar plantations, Japanese came to work in the rice fields and African immigrants brought their influences as well... that's why you see a fusion in the dishes. The typical food and plates from Peru mixed with these influences make up for an excellent cuisine.

Our sushi for example is totally different than the standard sushi and we have so many pastas that are outside of Italian pastas. The variety of corn, more than 500 variety of potatoes... I can go on and on."

I guess you will need to try it for yourself as Roxanne's place is unique. Asi Es Mi Peru is open every day from 12 noon - 10:30 pm.

They are closed on Monday evening. Have a peak on their website <https://www.asiesmiperuenaruba.com/> or Facebook [así es mi Perú](#). □

**EAGLE BEACH** - Peruvian-born Roxanna Salinas is the proud owner of a restaurant that without doubt serves the purest Peruvian specialties in Aruba: Asi Es Mi Peru at Paradise Beach Villas. She herself welcomes you in 'her home' as that is how the restaurant is described by Peruvian foodies: Food like home, for sure the best compliment a restaurant can get. "Everything here is 100 % Peruvian, we are authentic and ethnic." Peru by the way is considered to be the single most important cuisine in Latin America with a repertoire of dishes that might even beat France. Many big-name chefs travel to the country to get inspired.

### How It All Started

"Many years ago during a Christmas gathering with family my mom told me why I did not open a Peruvian restaurant in Aruba. She said: who does not love Peruvian food?" That was the trigger for the start because Roxanne loves cooking, it is in her genes. Her mom and grandmother were great cooks. "My base principle was to do everything original and authentic. When guests come to this restaurant I want to serve them the food as if you were dining the best dishes in a house in Peru. The taste is equal, nothing is fused or changed. Many Peruvians that come here say: I feel like I am having dinner at home. It is very difficult to please Peruvians as naturally they know best what is authentic." To find her Chef and Sous Chef she went to Peru where she interviewed 190 applicants. "We had more than 400 people that applied, after a screening that my brother and I did, we were left with 190 and out of them 10 cooked for me. I gave them a basket with ingredients and a certain plate they had to cook. Based on that I chose the Chef and Sous Chef."





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## It's A Wrap



**ORANJESTAD** — A while ago Aruba Today launched it's very first video of the series 'Ask Pilar' at Facebook Aruba Today and on our website [www.arubatoday.com](http://www.arubatoday.com). Let us introduce to you this project and the people behind it.

Why a video? Besides our daily printed free newspaper, our posts on Facebook and Instagram and our website content we started evaluating the plans for short video's about a year ago. The concept was created by Editor-in-Chief Linda Reijnders to add variation to the product Aruba Today. "There is more to this island than

## #AskPilar

palm trees and beaches and in our videos we wish to inform and educate the visitor by showing local places of any kind. We are all new to this, but goal is not to deliver a technical perfect result, moreover motivate with the content and topic as well as the good energy coming from it." Aruba Today will publish two or more videos per week and the concept will be interactive. Meaning that as the title of the video 'Ask Pilar' already reveals, the viewer has the tool to actually ask about the topics shown or maybe even suggest a location/topic for a video. Just ask our host Pilar through Facebook comments or messenger.

### THE TEAM

Pilar Flores, 33 years old, is the jolly Video Host of 'Ask Pilar'. She loves doing the videos because she gets to meet a lot of nice people and

to know many interesting places. "I hope with it that people will get to know and love Aruba the way us locals do." Flores is Executive Editor at Bon Dia Newspaper, Aruba Today's sister, where she is fond of being up to date on all current happenings and events and having the inside information. She has a Bachelor of Theology, achieved in Aberdeen, Scotland and a Masters of Applied Ethics in Utrecht, The Netherlands. "In my leisure time I like to walk in Arikok National park, play with my three cats, color and spend time with my boyfriend." The one capturing the images with his camera and edit them into the end result is our Videographer Juan Luis Pinto Sotter, Marketing Major at the University of Aruba. "I chose marketing because I wanted a career that kept me physically and mentally active. As a junior marketer there is a lot of moving

around, I can't begin to imagine what the real world will be like." His hobbies include photography, gaming, and working on his car. "I am not a car mechanic, however YouTube helps a lot and I find it very therapeutic to put everything aside and work on this piece of metal that helps me move long distances." Juan Luis loves to capture moments with his camera and edit them into a dynamic video.

Video Director of 'Ask Pilar' is Editor-in-Chief Linda Reijnders, working in this current position since July 2017 and before that for six years with the local newspaper in Dutch, Amigoe di Aruba as a journalist and Editor-in-Chief of the magazine H&H. "I love working in the media, I love to write, create, connect, inform and educate. Working with young, talented and motivated people like Juan Luis and Pilar is a blessing to me. We really enjoy making these Aruba Peeks and we for sure hope that rubs off to the viewer."

Check us out on Facebook Aruba Today or the website [www.arubatoday.com](http://www.arubatoday.com) and do not forget to like and share! Thank you for your support. □



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## Through the eyes of



Photography is a fascinating art. The photographer takes you into his world and makes you look at a certain topic through his eyes. The reflection of emotions that counted for that moment touch your senses and many times a picture tells a story without speaking.

Aruba has talented photographers, young, eager, creative and with their own, particular style. Aruba Today presents to you one of these amazing personalities and a sip of their work.

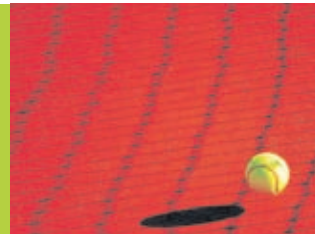
### Jonathan Petit

The jolly, always polite Jonathan Petit is a seen photographer on the island. He seems to be everywhere and he is a flexible person to work with. "I am 24 years old and a wedding & fashion photographer based on the island of Aruba. My style is very much concept driven as I work closely with my clients to understand their vision and help them find unique locations that reflect their sentiments. Working on a small island never limited my creativity." - [www.instagram.com/callmepetit](http://www.instagram.com/callmepetit) - ☐





# SPORTS



Zach Sucher grimaces as he misses a putt for birdie on the 18th green during the second round of the Travelers golf tournament in Cromwell, Conn., Friday, June 21, 2019  
Associated Press

## Sucher leads Travelers Championship as big names struggle

**CROMWELL, Conn. (AP)** — Zack Sucher found wrestling with chronic leg problems on the PGA Tour harder than wrestling alligators.

The 32-year-old from Alabama says he's finally feeling healthy again after knee surgery sidelined him for 13 months following the 2017 Travelers Championship.

He shot a 5-under 65 in the rain Friday morning at TPC River Highlands and his 11-under 129 total held up in the afternoon sunshine for a two-stroke lead midway through the Travelers, Sucher, who said he grew up in south Alabama doing "swamp stuff" like wrestling alligators and also played high school basketball. Chronic leg problems from that sport led to the surgery for a torn knee tendon and cartilage. Sucher worked his way back and is playing in just his fourth tour event this year. He gained a share of the lead on his final putt Thursday night and kept that momentum going with a 30 on his front nine Friday.

Continued on Page 19

## CAM-RUN



## Yanks 4 HRs, win 6th in row 10-6; Astros lose 5th straight

New York Yankees' Cameron Maybin reacts after hitting a two-run double during the fifth inning of the team's baseball game against the Houston Astros on Thursday, June 20, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press  
Page 20



# Analysis: The hat game takes away from the NBA draft

By TIM REYNOLDS  
AP Basketball Writer

When the careers for players like De'Andre Hunter and Jarrett Culver are long over, when they look back at the scrapbook of their basketball lives, they will more than likely see photos of draft night.

And they'll have the same reaction.

"Why did I have that hat on?"

It'll be a fair question.

A plea to the NBA: Going forward, do everyone a favor and let common sense prevail.

The NBA has some fairly strict rules that get followed on trades, and there are a lot of reasons why some trades that were agreed to in recent days can't be executed until the new league year starts on July 6. It's why Anthony Davis is still a member of the New Orleans Pelicans. While everyone believes he is a Laker, he really is still a Pelican and will be until his trade to Los Angeles can become official in a couple weeks. But since everyone knows the trades are happening, why pretend otherwise?

The draft — a five-plus-hour ordeal on Thursday night — had so many great moments with players crying and rejoicing for college teammates, along with plenty of confusing moments. Hunter was talking



De'Andre Hunter, of Virginia, leaves the stage after being selected with the fourth pick overall by the Los Angeles Lakers during the NBA basketball draft Thursday, June 20, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press

about joining the Atlanta Hawks while wearing a Lakers hat. Culver is going to Minnesota, and wore a Phoenix hat when he walked across the stage. This went on all night long. Guys were getting traded left and right, and very few of the deals could be officially announced — or even spoken about by teams — because they aren't finalized.

"It's a little weird," Hunter said.

It's a domino effect, too. The Lakers-Pelicans trade affects certain other deals, like the Pelicans-Hawks

trade, and so on, and so on. A handful of trades, mostly ones where draft rights to soon-to-be-rookies or even future picks were exchanged, got done Thursday night and didn't need to wait until the new league year. The biggest deals, like the Davis trade, cannot be completed until the new salary-cap year officially begins on July 6.

And the Davis trade is now a precursor to other trades. The Pelicans traded the No. 4 pick, which became Hunter, to Atlanta without technically owning it yet since it is part of the payoff

in the Davis deal. Hence, the potential for confusion. July 6 isn't an arbitrary date. It represents the end of the league's annual moratorium period, which is basically about a week to do some accounting and auditing for the previous year — including the determination of what the "Basketball Related Income" or BRI for the just-concluded season was.

That moratorium is also why players who agree to free-agent deals starting on June 30 won't be able to officially sign until the league year starts on July 6.

Not having a mechanism in place for these trades to be done on draft night — or even the ability to pretend that they're done — not only can be puzzling for fans, but it even can deny some players their ideal welcome-to-the-NBA moment as well.

After all, they'll never be drafted again.

"It's kind of different," Culver said. "I'm just happy to be in the NBA and have this opportunity. It's a lot of work to be done. So wherever I end up, I've got to stay true to myself and give whatever team I'm playing for everything I've got."

What makes this worse is that it isn't just affecting draft night.

There are summer leagues starting in Sacramento and Salt Lake City on July 1, and then the full-scale NBA Summer League starts in Las Vegas on July 5. Miami is playing in the Sacramento league, and it would have been a nice perk for former Stanford forward KZ Okpala — California born and raised, went to college there as well, an All-Pac-12 player last season — to get his first taste of pro ball in his home state.

Can't happen.

Okpala is going to be a member of the Heat, but not until July 6 and long after the start of summer play. He's not alone. □



Phoenix Mercury center Brittney Griner (42) shoots between Dallas Wings center Imani McGee-Stafford, left, and Allisha Gray, right, during the first half of a WNBA basketball game Thursday, June 20, 2019, in Arlington, Texas. At left is Wings forward Theresa Pleasance (55).

Associated Press

## Delle Donne scores 29 as Mystics rout Aces 95-72

By The Associated Press

Elena Delle Donne had 29 points and 11 rebounds, Ariel Atkins added 19 points and the Washington Mystics beat the Las Vegas Aces 95-72 on Thursday night.

Delle Donne scored 10 of Washington's first 21 points and the Mystics (6-3) led 30-19 at the end of the first quarter. She had 16 points at the break as Washington led 51-39 after being ahead by as many as 15. Washington opened the

fourth quarter by scoring the first seven points for a 79-61 advantage to put the game away.

A'ja Wilson scored 28 points on 11-of-14 shooting for Las Vegas (4-4), which had a two-game winning streak end. Liz Cambage added 14 points and six rebounds.

**WINGS 69, MERCURY 54**

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Kayla Thornton had 18 points and 11 rebounds, Theresa Plaisance added 12 points and 11 rebounds and Dallas beat Phoenix.

Dallas (2-5) led by nine points entering the fourth quarter, but Phoenix (2-5) made four 3-pointers in the first three minutes to pull to 53-52. The Wings scored the next 12 points to seal it as the Mercury went scoreless for nearly six minutes.

Leilani Mitchell led Phoenix (2-5) with 12 points.

Brittney Griner added 11 points and blocked four shots to move into a tie with Lauren Jackson for third on the WNBA career list with 586. □



# Hannah Green has big early lead at Women's PGA at Hazeltine

CHASKA, Minn. (AP) — Hannah Green keeps getting out of tough spots, and it's taken her to a place she has never been.

Green twice escaped trouble with unlikely par saves, including one shot she holed from off the green, and made four birdies for a 3-under 69 to set a daunting target at Hazeltine National in the KPMG Women's PGA Championship.

The 22-year-old Australian has made one bogey over 36 holes at Hazeltine, one of the strongest tests of the year on the LPGA Tour. She had a four-shot lead among those who played early Friday. If it stands, it would be her first 36-hole lead on the LPGA Tour.

"Even when you play this type of golf at just a regular event, you're pretty proud of yourself, but this week especially," Green said. "I've never put myself in this position in any event, so to be doing it this week at such a great venue definitely shows things are going the right way. I've had some luck going my way. I do hope that continues."

Green was at 7-under 137 and led by four shots over

defending champion Sung Hyun Park, who had a 71. Nelly Korda was another shot behind after a 70. Only four other players who completed 36 holes were under par, a group that included Moriya Jutanugarn. Green thought luck was on her side when she holed a short-sided bunker shot for birdie on the par-5 seventh near the end of her opening round.

Friday was even better.

She didn't notice the water right of the 12th green during practice rounds. She took a penalty drop, and with the pin on a shelf in the back left of the green, her biggest concern was getting it close without the risk of a big number.

"If I landed it too far there was a possibility of it going over the back. I didn't want to leave myself with another chip to then possibly make bogey or double at worse," Green said. "I had to land it perfectly and I guess I did. I knew it was going to be close but I didn't think it had the chance of going in. I really wasn't really watching it going into the hole. I just heard the crowd roar."



Hannah Green, of Australia, watches her putt on the 18th green during the second round of the KPMG Women's PGA Championship golf tournament, Friday, June 21, 2019, in Chaska, Minn.

Associated Press

"I just laughed because with the hole-out on 7 yesterday and with the hole-out today, it's really going my way."

After a missed chance at birdie on the par-5 15th, Green was in trouble again on the 16th hole, the signature hole at Hazeltine. Her shot took a surprising kick to the right, leaving the ball between clumps of grass.

She got that up-and-down for par and was on her way. Green is in her second full year on the LPGA Tour, having won three times on the Symetra Tour in 2017 to earn her card. She had such a successful amateur career in Australia that she was awarded the Karrie Webb Scholarship in 2015, and one of the perks was coming to the U.S. Women's

Open at Lancaster.

The 44-year-old Webb is Australia's most prolific champion with seven majors as part of her 41 titles on the LPGA Tour. Webb, the only player to win five different LPGA Tour majors, first came to America under a similar program started by Greg Norman, and now has one in place for female amateurs. □

## TRAVELERS

Continued from Page 17

"It's nice," he said. "First year I can remember in a long time where I'm pain free and it's feeling really good." Chez Reavie and Keegan Bradley were two shots back. Reavie, coming off a third-place tie last week in the U.S. Open, shot a 64. Bradley had a 66, making an eagle in the rain from about 80 yards on the par-4 15th.

"I was talking to my caddy about how wet it was and it was going to skid," he said. "We landed a little short of where we normally would and it went right in the hole."

Jason Day made some adjustments to his putting game after an even-par first round. He made four straight birdies after opening with a par, shot a bogey-free 63 and was among seven players at 7 under.

"Birdieing four early in my round kind of settled every-

thing, because I was on the outside looking in," he said. Defending champion Bubba Watson was 5 under. He switched putters after a first-round 69 and had a 66, with bogeys on his final two holes. He had six birdies, including four in a row to start the back nine, rolling in putts from 28 feet on the 11th and 38 feet on the 12th.

"Knowing that we can make birdies in a hurry around here, you know that you have a shot," he said. "Tomorrow, the wind is expected to pick up in the afternoon, so come up and do the same thing, shoot another 5 under. Always, 15 under is going to be around the lead."

Brooks Koepka said exhaustion after his runner-up finish at Pebble Beach played a role in his 71 on Thursday. He shot a 66 on Friday to get to 3 under.

"I feel good and I feel like I had way more energy today which was nice," he

said.

Patrick Cantlay lipped out a 2-foot putt on 15, but made a 43-footer on the 17th to just make the cut at 2 under.

Two-time champion Phil Mickelson was among the big names left on the outside of the ropes this weekend. Mickelson, playing in Connecticut for the first time since 2003 and looking for the 45th win of his career, shot a 67 on Thursday, but had a 76 in the second round.

He hit his first tee shot onto the cart path and out of bounds to the right and then missed an 18-foot bogey putt. He hit his second shot on the 17th hole into the water and ended up shooting a 41 on his front nine.

"It was a little bit of a surprise," Mickelson said. "I have not played great the last three months but I really keyed in on something about 10 days ago that I thought my performance



Phil Mickelson, left, and Jordan Spieth watch Spieth's drive from the 10th tee during the second round of the Travelers golf tournament in Cromwell, Conn., Friday, June 21, 2019

Associated Press

at the U.S. Open and this week was going to be a lot better. Some of the shots I hit and the way I struck it yesterday, I thought I was going to have a really good day and get myself into contention, so that front nine kind of threw me for a loop." Jordan Spieth, the 2017 winner, shot 73 and 69

and also missed the cut.

"I just didn't play well," Spieth said. "No parts of my game are really where I want them to be. I'll get some time off here, I'm not sure how much and kind of get away from the game a little bit and get a reset and try to finish the year strong." □



# Yankees win 6th straight, send Astros to 5th loss in a row



New York Yankees' Didi Gregorius, Brett Gardner, Cameron Maybin and Giancarlo Stanton, from left, celebrate after the Yankees defeated the Houston Astros 10-6 in a baseball game Thursday, June 20, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press

**By The Associated Press**  
**NEW YORK (AP)** — Gary Sánchez, Gleyber Torres and DJ LeMahieu homered in a hurry, connecting in a six-run fourth inning that powered the New York Yankees past the Houston Astros 10-6 on Thursday night for their sixth straight win. Edwin Encarnación hit his AL-leading 23rd home run, and second since being acquired by New York from Seattle, as the Yankees handed Houston its season-worst fifth loss in a row. The Astros dropped a matchup of division leaders despite Jake Marisnick's two home runs and solo drives by Alex Bregman and rookie Yordan Álvarez. Sánchez opened the fourth with his 22nd homer. With rain falling, Torres connected for a three-run jolt off rookie Framber Valdéz (3-3). LeMahieu tagged reliever Chris Devenski for a two-run homer and a 6-0 lead. The inning included two delays — a short break to fix the mound and a 37-minute stoppage when the showers fell too hard. Nestor Cortes Jr. (2-0) pitched three innings af-

ter another fine start by opener Chad Green. The veteran reliever struck out three in two scoreless innings — Green has filled that role in his last three outings, fanning 12 in six scoreless innings. Aroldis Chapman got the final out with two on for his 20th save in 22 chances.  
**BLUE JAYS 7, ANGELS 5, 10 INNINGS**  
**TORONTO (AP)** — Billy McKinney's two-run homer in the bottom of the 10th lifted the Blue Jays over the Los Angeles Angels to avoid a four-game sweep. Randal Grichuk singled with one out and McKinney, who entered the game as a pinch-runner in the eighth inning, went deep off Ty Buttrey (4-4) in his first at-bat since being recalled from Triple-A Buffalo on Tuesday. It was McKinney's fourth homer of the season. Nick Kingham (1-0) pitched a scoreless top of the 10th to get the win. The Blue Jays led 5-3 before the Angels pulled within one on Luis Rengifo's RBI single to shallow in the top of the sixth, and tied it on Albert Pujols' sacrifice

fly in the seventh. Rengifo, who homered earlier in the game, finished with three hits, three RBIs and two runs scored.  
**RANGERS 4, INDIANS 2**  
**ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)** — Elvis Andrus homered and had an RBI triple to back another impressive home start by Mike Minor as the Rangers earned a series split. Minor (7-4) limited the Indians to three hits and one run over eight innings after they had scored 10 runs each of the last two nights. The lefty struck out four and walked three while throwing 70 of 110 pitches for strikes. Danny Santana went deep in the Rangers' eighth, his third homer in the four-game series and seventh overall. Andrus immediately followed with his seventh homer, his first since May 12 at Houston. They also teamed up for the first two Texas runs. Andrus tripled to right-center in the first inning after Santana had doubled and stolen third base. Andrus raced home on a wild pitch by Shane Bieber (6-3) that ricocheted off catcher Kevin

Plawecki and went several feet in front of the plate. Shawn Kelley worked the ninth for his ninth save in 13 chances after giving up a leadoff homer to Carlos Santana.  
**ROYALS 4, TWINS 1**  
**KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)** — Alex Gordon had a two-run double and Lucas Duda added an RBI single as the Royals jumped on Jake Odorizzi in the first inning and beat the Minnesota Twins. Glenn Sparkman (2-3) gave up just one run and five hits in a season high-tying seven innings. He walked one and struck out three. Duda, had two hits and scored a run to help the Royals win for the fourth time in five games. Jake Diekmann pitched a perfect eighth, and Ian Kennedy got the last three outs for his ninth save in 11 opportunities. Odorizzi (10-3) came in tied with Chicago White Sox pitcher Lucas Giolito for the major league lead in wins, but lasted just four innings. He gave up four runs and eight hits with one walk and two strikeouts.

Jorge Polanco homered for Minnesota's lone run.  
**MARINERS 5, ORIOLES 2**  
**SEATTLE (AP)** — Domingo Santana hit his third home run in two days, Wade LeBlanc gave the Mariners a boost on the mound after another rough outing by an opener. Santana's homers helped the Mariners win back-to-back games for the first time since May 13-14 against Oakland. The Orioles have lost nine straight, and have just three wins in June. Santana tied it at 2 with a homer off Orioles starter Dylan Bundy (3-9) in the sixth inning. Kyle Seager and Mac Williamson followed with RBI singles. The home run came a day after Santana hit two homers to fuel a sweep-averting Seattle victory over Kansas City. LeBlanc (4-2) wiped out another difficult start by a Mariners opener with a steady outing over 6 1/3 innings in which he struck out seven. Seattle turned to reliever Tayler Scott to start with few other options in the bullpen. Scott walked three of the Orioles' first five batters and was pulled after throwing 13 balls on 23 pitches. Roenis Elias pitched the ninth for his eighth save.  
**ATHLETICS 5, RAYS 4**  
**OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)** — Matt Chapman hit a three-run homer with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning and the Athletics stunned the skidding Tampa Bay Rays. Frankie Montas pitched eight innings of one-run ball for the A's, who rallied for their fourth straight win and seventh in eight games after Tampa Bay took a 4-1 lead with three in the top of the ninth. Tommy Pham homered in the sixth for the Rays, who lost their fourth consecutive game and eighth in 10. Chapman's 17th homer and second game-ender came on a 1-0 slider from Diego Castillo (1-5), handed his first blown save in eight chances. Lou Trivino (3-5) got one out for the win. Jurickson Profar hit a solo homer in the fifth to put the A's ahead. □



# Nationals hit 3 HRs, complete sweep of Phillies with 7-4 win

By The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Anthony Rendon and Victor Robles homered in a four-run sixth inning, and the Nationals completed a three-game sweep of Philadelphia.

Rendon led off the sixth with a tiebreaking drive against Nick Pivetta (4-2). Kurt Suzuki also went deep for the Nationals, who earned their first three-game sweep of the season. This victory followed a doubleheader win on Wednesday and postponements Monday and Tuesday. After sinking to 19-31 on May 23, Washington has used a 17-7 surge to get within two games of .500 (36-38) for the first time since April 28.

Jean Segura and Jay Bruce hit solo homers for the Phillies, who have lost four straight and eight of 10. Philadelphia right fielder Bryce Harper was booed loudly in the stadium he called home during the first seven years of his career. Playing his second series in Washington after signing a \$330 million, 13-year contract with the Phillies in March, Harper batted leadoff for the first time this season and went 1 for 5 with three strikeouts.

## REDS 7, BREWERS 1

**MILWAUKEE (AP)** — Jose Iglesias homered and drove in four runs, Tanner Roark allowed one run — a homer by major league leader Christian Yelich — over six solid innings and Cincinnati earned its fifth straight victory.

Iglesias followed a two-out triple by Yasiel Puig with his fifth homer to put the Reds up 5-1 in the fifth. He also singled in two runs in the first. Nick Senzel hit his seventh homer for the Reds.

Roark (5-6), who had lost three consecutive starts and five of his last six, al-

lowed three hits, struck out seven and hit three batters. Jared Hughes followed with two scoreless innings and Zach Duke finished.

Yelich, the reigning NL MVP, opened the fourth with his 28th homer, sending a 2-2 pitch from Roark 462 feet to right to extend his hitting streak to 17 games, matching his career high.

Jimmy Nelson (0-2) continued to struggle in his comeback after missing all of last season following right shoulder surgery. He allowed five runs and seven hits with four walks and a hit batter in five innings.

## CUBS 7, METS 4

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Cubs top pitching prospect Adalberto Alzolay tossed four innings of dazzling relief in his major league debut and the offense broke through with a six-run third to beat New York.

Javier Báez homered and tripled, and Anthony Rizzo hit a two-run double as the NL Central leaders improved to 26-12 at Wrigley Field.

Rookie slugger Pete Alonso hit his 25th homer and Todd Frazier connected for the 200th of his career for the Mets, who dropped to 15-26 on the road. Before the game, they fired pitching coach Dave Eiland and bullpen coach Chuck Hernández — but it made little difference on this night.

Alonso tied Dodgers star Cody Bellinger (2017) for most homers by an NL rookie before the All-Star break. Alonso also is one shy of the Mets' rookie mark set by Darryl Strawberry in 1983.

Alzolay (1-0) replaced starter Tyler Chatwood to begin the fifth. The right-hander struck out five and didn't allow a hit until Frazier's leadoff homer in the ninth. Steve Cishek got three outs



Washington Nationals catcher Kurt Suzuki raises his glove with the ball after tagging out Philadelphia Phillies' Bryce Harper at the home plate during the fourth inning of a baseball game in Washington, Thursday, June 20, 2019.

Associated Press

for his seventh save.

New York spot starter Walker Lockett (0-1) retired his first six batters and had a 3-0 lead when he took the mound in the third following Alonso's two-run shot. But things quickly fell apart for the 25-year-old right-hander, who was pitching in place of injured Noah Syndergaard.

## MARLINS 7, CARDINALS 6, 11 INNINGS

**ST. LOUIS (AP)** — JT Riddle hit a two-run homer in the 11th, Zac Gallen was effective in his major league debut and the Miami Marlins edged the Cardinals.

Brian Anderson also went deep and drove in two runs for the Marlins, who earned a split of the four-game series.

Rookie infielder Tommy Edman homered for the Cardinals, who rallied from 4-1 and 5-3 deficits.

Riddle connected off Andrew Miller (3-3) with one out for a 7-5 lead.

Jarlin Garcia (1-0) got the win with two innings of relief, and Sergio Romo closed for his 13th save in 14 chances. He gave up a two-out RBI double to Yadier Molina, but ended the game by picking off pitcher Jack Flaherty at second base. Flaherty was pinch-running for Molina.

## ROCKIES 6, DIAMONDBACKS 4, 10 INNINGS

**PHOENIX (AP)** — Chris Iannetta's two-run, bases-

loaded single in the 10th lifted the Colorado Rockies to a victory that completed a three-game sweep of the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Iannetta, a former Diamondbacks catcher, singled off the center-field wall against Yoshihisa Hirano (3-4) with one out to drive in Ian Desmond and Brendan Rodgers. The Rockies had tied it at 4 on Tony Wolters' pinch-hit RBI single in the ninth off Arizona closer Greg Holland.

Scott Oberg (5-0) got the win with two scoreless innings in relief, but had to pitch out of jam in the bottom of the 10th when the Diamondbacks loaded the bases with one out. He got Ildemaro Vargas to fly out, and then struck out David Peralta swinging to end the game.

Charlie Blackmon and Desmond homered for the Rockies, who have won eight in a row over the Diamondbacks. Nolan Arenado left with a bruised left big toe after fouling a ball off his foot.

Christian Walker's two-run, pinch-hit homer keyed a three-run sixth for the Diamondbacks. Ketel Marte had four hits and tied a club record for consecutive three-hit games with his fourth.

## DODGERS 9, GIANTS 8

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Kyle Garlick, Austin Barnes and Joc Pederson each hit a

two-run homer to help the Dodgers hold off the San Francisco Giants.

Pederson's insurance homer ended up saving the Dodgers, who had a 9-4 lead going into the ninth before the Giants rallied. Their first five batters got on, including a two-run double by Brandon Crawford and RBI singles by Mike Yastrzemski and Stephen Vogt to get San Francisco within a run before the Dodgers' defense came up big.

First baseman Cody Bellinger threw to third on Tyler Austin's bunt to get Vogt. Center fielder Alex Verdugo chased down Buster Posey's line drive and made a diving catch, and Garlick caught Brandon Belt's fly ball near the warning track in right for the final out. Kenley Jansen was charged with a run and two hits, but was able to hang on for his 22nd save. JT Chargois (1-0) allowed a run in two innings.

It was the third straight night the Dodgers scored nine runs against their NL West rivals. The last time they had three nights in a row against the Giants with nine or more runs was July 1977.

The Dodgers chased Madison Bumgarner (3-7) after just 3 2/3 innings. Yastrzemski had a two-run homer in the seventh for San Francisco, which has dropped four of five. □



# Sonoma's new turn: NASCAR takes a ride on "The Carousel"

By GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

**SONOMA, Calif. (AP)** — This twisty road course in Northern California wine country already provided one of the NASCAR Cup Series' biggest challenges and best rides of the year.

And now the drivers are also going for a ride on "The Carousel" this weekend.

That's the name for a section of Sonoma Raceway that hasn't been used in a NASCAR race since 1997, but was put back in the layout this year to celebrate this venerable track's 50th anniversary.

With three more turns, longer laps and an overriding uncertainty across the paddock, the first road race of the NASCAR season could be a doozy Sunday — and the drivers can't wait to take a ride.

"I love it," William Byron said after practice Friday. "It's probably the most fun I've had driving a race car this year."

Nearly every driver is more excited than frightened by the Carousel's challenge. After all, weeks upon weeks of driving in circles and only turning left can get a little dull, even for the world's best at it.

Sonoma is already no picnic for drivers; in fact, it's one of the most physical tracks in North America. The layout is known for



Denny Hamlin drives around the Carousel during practice for the NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Sonoma Raceway on Friday, June 21, 2019, in Sonoma, Calif.

Associated Press

its precipitous elevation changes and tough turns, but the return of the Carousel adds another layer of complexity to an already daunting challenge.

NASCAR's usual 12-turn layout over nearly 2 miles at Sonoma has been transformed into a 15-turn, 2.52-mile setup, and most drivers are unfamiliar with the new part. They'll do 90 laps instead of 110, but the race is now 8 miles longer.

"I like the change," Denny Hamlin said. "I think it had gotten a little stagnant where we needed to freshen up the course."

Most NASCAR drivers spent time in simulators to prepare for this weekend, but that's

not enough. Even before early practice Friday, drivers lined up to take pace car rides on the new layout, hoping for insight even in a passenger seat. Many also plan to watch the K&N Series race on Saturday to see how those drivers fare on the Carousel.

IndyCar races in Sonoma have used the Carousel, which means Chip Ganassi Racing and Team Penske could have a little extra data — if it does them any good.

"It's going to change a lot of things," Hamlin said. "The biggest thing is the strategy. We have all these notes from so many years here, and all this informa-

tion based off of strategies that have played out in years past. Now we have a different stage length. The track is a different length. You're not going to be able to dive onto pit road at the last second. The lap times are slower. All of that plays a factor in strategy."

Bubba Wallace spun off the track roughly 10 seconds into his first practice lap. He was amused by his mistake, but not overly optimistic about his chances.

"I told my guys, 'We've got three days here, and I'll try to get better in a short amount of time,'" Wallace said. "Hopefully I can put myself together to make a complete lap."

Yet the challenges also create opportunity. Most drivers are cautiously confident the layout will allow more passing because of the braking zones created by the Carousel — as long as they have the space and the courage to make the move.

"It kind of suckers you in to picking up the throttle too soon, which just washes you up on exit," Paul Menard said. "You have to have some patience, for sure."

Kyle Busch drove the Carousel in Legends cars way back in 1998, and his four career road course victories are the most in the field — yet he repeatedly went off the track during Friday's second practice session, apparently testing his limits on the new layout. Jimmie Johnson, Kevin Harvick and Michael McDowell also have driven the Carousel in past racing lives, but they don't claim any special knowledge on how to ride it. "Mentally, you can't make any mistakes," Matt DiBenedetto said. "You can't get lazy. You have to pay attention all day and be really precise with your shifts. ... And you're working a lot harder inside the car at Sonoma than you would be on a mile-and-a-half (track). You've got to be hydrated. Sleep well. All of the basic things to feel really good." □

# A's pitcher Montas suspended 80 games for drug violation

**OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)** — A season full of All-Star potential for Oakland Athletics pitcher Frankie Montas was drastically cut short Friday when Major League Baseball suspended him 80 games after testing positive for a performance-enhancing substance.

Montas pitched well Thursday night and is 9-2 with a 2.70 ERA in 15 starts, a big reason the A's are 40-36.

The 26-year-old righty could return for the final week of the season. But the penalty makes him ineligible for the All-Star Game and post-season play this year, and he'll lose about half of his \$560,000 salary.

"I think it was a shock to everybody," A's manager Bob Melvin said before a night game against Tampa Bay. "We met as a team and Frankie spoke and was very remorseful and is going to accept what he has to deal with and feels bad about it."

The commissioner's office said Montas tested positive for Ostarine, a PED. He is the sixth player suspended this year under the major league drug program.

"While I never intended to take any prohibited substance, I unfortunately and unknowingly ingested a contaminated supplement that I had purchased over-

the-counter at a nutrition store here in the United States," Montas said in a statement released by the players' union.

Montas said he accepted "full responsibility" for the penalty.

"I sincerely apologize to the A's organization, the fans, my teammates and my family for this mistake. My hope is to be able to return to the A's later this season and contribute as best I can," he said.

Montas pitched eight innings of one-run ball Thursday night. He got a no-decision in a game Oakland won 5-4 over Tampa Bay. Montas allowed four hits,

struck out nine and walked none. He struck out at least nine for the third straight start.

In a statement, the A's said they will "welcome Frankie back after the discipline has been served."

"Unfortunately it was a guy that everybody is pretty close to here and a guy that's performed really well. It's just something we're going to have to deal with," Melvin said.

Montas spoke to general manager David Forst at the Coliseum earlier in the day. "I met with him this morning when he got to the ballpark. He was very disappointed in himself. He was

apologetic. He feels like he let his teammates and the organization down," Forst said.

"I appreciated that sentiment but at that point there wasn't much we could do. I just think he wanted to express his remorse. After he talked to me, he met with Bob in private and talked to him," he said.

Forst said Montas had known about the positive test "for a while."

"It's disappointing on a number of levels. Obviously personally disappointed in Frankie," Forst said.

The A's recalled right-hander J.B. Wendelken from Triple-A Las Vegas. □



# Maybe the U.S. is as good as American players say

By RONALD BLUM  
AP Sports Writer

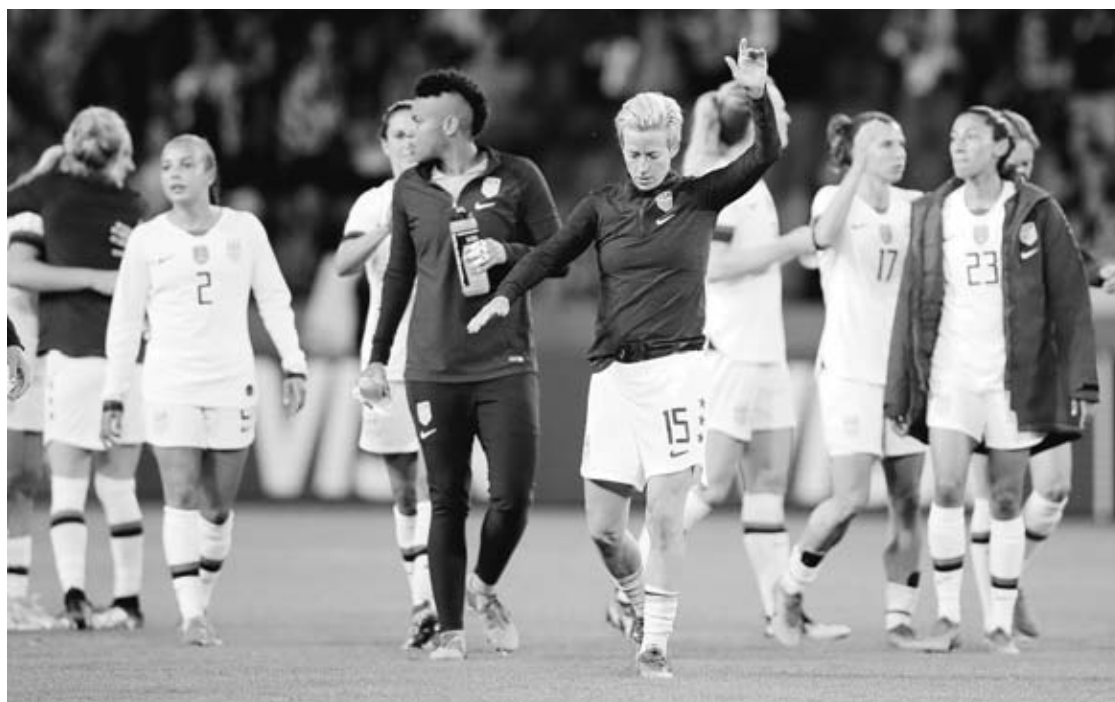
LE HAVRE, France (AP) — Maybe they are as good as they say they are.

The United States is moving through the World Cup field like sharks through the Atlantic.

"The message is that we're on our game, that we're building momentum, that we've gotten some good results, we've scored some good goals and we haven't let any goals in," defender Becky Sauerbrunn said after Thursday night's more dominating 2-0 win over Sweden completed a record-setting group phase. "So I hope the teams that are preparing for us are getting ready for what's going to be a really, really tough match."

The American Outlaws supporters in red, white and blue filled the trains north from Paris. As gulls flew overhead on a mild and breezy afternoon, they walked the streets and museums of this coastal Normandy town with their "Tour de Four" T-shirts, signifying the fourth title they hope the U.S. brings home on July 7.

They were still in their throaty start-of-game chants when Lindsey Horan scored 2 minutes, 40 seconds in, the fastest goal of the tournament. By the time Tobin Heath's 50th-minute shot deflected



United States' Megan Rapinoe celebrates with her teammates after her team's 2-0 win over Sweden in their Women's World Cup Group F soccer match at Stade Océane, in Le Havre, France, Thursday, June 20, 2019.

Associated Press

off Jonna Andersson for an own goal, the Outlaws' "We are the U.S.!" chant had been met by a playful "You are the U.S.!" response from the ever-polite Swedes at the other end of the Stade Océane.

Now the route through the field is clear and the heat really will be on for Monday's round of 16 match against 13th-ranked Spain at Reims — where the temperature is expected to be in the 90s. The winner meets host France or Brazil in a quarterfinal in Paris, and possible semifinal opponents include England,

Australia, Norway or Cameroon.

A few numbers to digest: The U.S. set a record with 18 group phase goals, one more than Norway in 1995. The Americans ended the group stage unscored on for the first time in team history. They started 3-0 for the first time since 2003.

Despite the relative ease of passage, coach Jill Ellis insisted complacency is not a concern.

"This team is firmly rooted on the ground," she maintained. "These players have played this game long enough to know you have

to earn every result."

At least for three games, the Americans routed rivals in the same manner Barcelona beats up La Liga opponents. The U.S. had an 83-9 advantage in shots in the three games and had 75% possession against Thailand, 68% vs. Chile and 58% against the Swedes.

Alyssa Naeher — remember her? — had to make just four saves over the three matches, getting only infrequent tests in her first World Cup succeeding Hope Solo as the Americans' No. 1 goalkeeper.

"I don't think the first two

games sent a message. They weren't great teams to be honest. With that said, you have to go out and perform," midfielder Megan Rapinoe said, laughing. "I feel like we have a big target on our back already. So I don't know how much bigger it can get with the performance."

Eight players produced 17 goals (plus there was an own goal), led by Alex Morgan with five, Carli Lloyd with three, and Horan, Rose Lavelle and Sam Mewis with two apiece.

"We love to just share the ball," left back Crystal Dunn said. "I think at the end of the day the team that is going to go on and win is the team that has so many threats and doesn't rely on one player. And I think people should know that we rotate our players. We have a strong 23, so we're always fresh and ready to go."

True, but the U.S. has not yet faced a moment of adversity, has not trailed, has not had to overcome a red card or a tournament-ending injury to a starter.

"We talk about from there down, everybody can kind of be the same, physically, tactically, all that kind of stuff," Ellis said, holding a hand horizontally in front of her neck. "But from here up, sometimes that mentality piece is I think really important. □"

## Andy Murray's comeback halted by darkness at Queen's Club

LONDON (AP) — Andy Murray's comeback after a five-month absence will continue into the weekend after his doubles match at Queen's Club was suspended in the second set due to darkness on Friday.

The three-time Grand Slam champion and Feliciano Lopez won their first set 6-4 and were 5-4 down in the second to British duo Daniel Evans and Ken Skupski when fading light forced a halt to play at the grass-court event.

Murray was playing freely in his second match since

undergoing what he hopes was career-saving hip surgery 144 days ago.

It's shaping up to be a busy Saturday for Lopez, as he finishes his doubles match, plays in the singles semifinals and possibly the doubles semifinals straight after that. The former Queen's Club champion hit 16 aces to beat Milos Raonic 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (5) in the singles quarterfinals earlier Friday. Lopez, who was the tournament's oldest champion when he won at 35 in 2017, next faces up-and-coming star Felix Auger-Aliassime in

the semifinals. The 18-year-old Canadian defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas 7-5, 6-2.

The age differential between the players will be the greatest in an ATP semifinal or final since the 43-year-old Ken Rosewall defeated 23-year-old American Pat Dupre to reach the Hong Kong Grand Prix final in 1977.

Also, the fourth-seeded Daniil Medvedev defeated Diego Schwartzman 6-2, 6-2 for a semifinal against Gilles Simon. The French player defeated compatriot Nicolas Mahut 7-6 (5),



Felix Auger-Aliassime of Canada falls as he plays a return to Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece during their quarterfinal singles match at the Queens Club tennis tournament in London, Friday, June 21, 2019.

Associated Press

5-7, 7-6 (3).

Defending champion Marin Cilic and former winner

Grigor Dimitrov were both knocked out in the second round on Thursday. □



# Google puts up \$1B to ease housing headaches it helped cause

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — Google is pouring \$1 billion into easing the high-priced housing headaches that it and its Silicon Valley peers helped give the San Francisco Bay Area.

The pledge announced Tuesday by Google CEO Sundar Pichai consists of a \$250 million investment fund and \$750 million of company-owned land. It will be used to build at least 15,000 homes that will include low- and mid-income housing.

Google's commitment eclipsed a recent \$500 million pledge made by Microsoft to combat housing shortages in the Seattle area and a \$500 million housing fund created by a consortium including Facebook. Google is extending a helping hand as it draws up plans to expand into sprawling offices beyond its headquarters in Mountain View, California. That suburban city of roughly 80,000 people has been swamped with affluent tech workers since Google moved there shortly after its 1998 inception.

Since then, Google's payroll has swelled from a few



In this May 1, 2019, file photo, a woman walks past a Google sign in San Francisco.

Associated Press

dozen workers to the more than 103,000 people now working for it and its corporate parent, Alphabet Inc. Nearly half of those workers are based in the Bay Area. While Google has been expanding, so have a wide variety of other technology companies, including Apple, Facebook, Oracle, Salesforce and Netflix — all of whom also lavish their workers with six-figure salaries and stock options that

can yield multimillion-dollar windfalls.

The high incomes have resulted in bidding wars for the limited supply of homes in the Bay Area that can only be afforded by the affluent, a group increasingly dominated by tech workers, while people employed in other lines of work struggle to make ends meet on more modest incomes.

That is making it impossible for people on the lower end

of the economic spectrum to buy a home in the Bay Area, where a mid-priced house sold for \$990,000 in April, according to the California Association of Realtors, a trade group. In 1999, a mid-priced home sold for \$308,000.

It's even worse in San Francisco, a city from which many tech workers ride company buses to the Silicon Valley suburbs. A mid-priced house in San Fran-

cisco sold for nearly \$1.7 million in April, according to the realtors' group, quadruple the price of 20 years ago. Google's next big project will be in the Bay Area's most populous city, San Jose, where it plans to build a corporate campus consisting of offices and housing where 15,000 to 20,000 of its employees will work and live.

The project faced resistance from community activists worried about its effect on housing prices. Last week, a report by Working Partnerships called upon Google to build more than 17,000 homes in the area to help offset the anticipated price increases caused by the new campus. The report by the labor-union backed labor group envisions apartment rent increases of \$235 million by 2030 if action isn't taken.

"For several months, we have encouraged Google to make a bold commitment to address our region's affordable housing challenge," San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo said in a statement applauding the company's \$1 billion pledge. □

# Waymo teams up with Renault, Nissan on robotaxis outside U.S.

By **MICHAEL LIEDTKE**  
AP Technology Writer

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — Self-driving car pioneer Waymo is teaming up with automakers Renault and Nissan to make its first journey outside the U.S. with a ride-hailing service that will dispatch a fleet of robotaxis in France and Japan.

The partnership announced late Wednesday underscores Waymo's ambition to deploy its driverless technology throughout the world in an attempt to revolutionize the way people get around. The Mountain View, California, company can afford to try because it's backed by one of the world's richest companies, Google, which secretly began working on driverless technology a decade ago before spinning off that project into what is now known as Waymo.



This Tuesday, May 8, 2018, file photo shows a Waymo logo displayed on the window of a car at the Google I/O conference in Mountain View, Calif.

Associated Press

After launching its ride-hailing service in France and Japan, Waymo intends to explore other European and Asian markets with Renault and Nissan.

"This is an ideal opportunity for Waymo to bring our autonomous technology to a global stage," Waymo CEO John Krafcik said.

Waymo, Renault and Nissan didn't set a timetable for when their ride-hailing service will launch. They left most other details vague.

It seems likely it will still be several years before Waymo will be in a position to pose a serious challenge to Uber, the world's largest ride-hailing service.

Although Waymo's self-driving technology is widely considered to be the world's most advanced, it still isn't adept enough to be trusted without a human poised to take control in case something goes awry with the robot.

Waymo had hoped to launch a fully autonomous ride-hailing service last year in the Phoenix area, but instead is still keeping human safety drivers in those vehicles more than six months after it rolled out. That service, known as Waymo One, is still only offering rides to about 1,000 passengers that previously participated in a test program. Krafcik told the German newspaper Handelsblatt last year that Waymo will likely use a different brand for its ride-hailing services outside the U.S. That could be one reason Waymo is

working with France-based Renault and Japan-based Nissan, household names in their home countries.

Waymo has previously struck deals with two automakers, Fiat Chrysler and Jaguar, but those involved ordering tens of thousands of vehicles to be equipped with self-driving technology for services in the U.S. So far, Waymo is only using Fiat Chrysler's minivans for its Phoenix service, but plans to add Jaguar's electric-powered I-Pace next year. The partnership with Renault and Nissan also involves a long-time alliance they formed with Mitsubishi. But the fate of that alliance has been in limbo since Carlos Ghosn, the former CEO of both Renault and Nissan, was arrested late last year on charges that included falsifying financial reports. □



# Stocks soar while bonds are signaling gloom. What's up?

By **STAN CHOE**

**CHRISTOPHER RUGABER**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Why is the stock market so happy and the bond market so gloomy?

Just as the S&P 500 was setting a record high Thursday, bond yields were tumbling to their lowest levels since Donald Trump was elected. The yield on the 10-year Treasury, which influences rates for mortgages and other loans, dropped below 2% at one point. It was above 3.20% in November. Usually, stock prices rise when investors are feeling confident. Bond yields, meanwhile, often fall when investors are worried about a softening economy. How can both be happening at the same time? In large part, it's because investors are locking in bets based on expectations for what the Federal Reserve will do with interest rates. The U.S.-China trade war is also playing a role. Here's a look at how ebullience and trepidation can occur simultaneously:

## HOW IS THE FED PUSHING THE STOCK MARKET HIGHER?

Most investors expect the Fed to cut interest rates at its next meeting in July for the first time since the economy was swamped under the Great Recession in 2008. Not only that, many investors expect the central bank to cut rates another one or maybe even two times later this year. It's



A television screen on the trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange shows the rate decision of the Federal Reserve, Wednesday, June 19, 2019.

Associated Press

a sharp turnaround from December 2018, when the Fed raised rates for the seventh time in two years.

For stocks, lower rates can goose prices higher because stocks suddenly look more attractive than bonds. Lower rates also can encourage borrowing and more economic activity.

"Markets have accepted the new world order where low interest rates are viewed as a huge positive and people buy into the fact that you can afford to pay higher valuations" for stocks, said Nate Thooft, senior portfolio manager at Manulife Asset Management.

It's also not just the Fed. Central banks around the world have shown their willingness to keep interest rates low to invigorate their economies.

## WHY ARE TREASURY YIELDS FALLING?

Short-term yields tend to fall when expectations build for coming rate cuts. Longer-term yields, meanwhile, fall when expectations for inflation are low and worries about the economy are growing.

Inflation has remained remarkably tame. Some concerning economic figures, meanwhile, have been popping up around the world. Particularly in manu-

facturing, countries have seen slowing momentum as the global trade war weighs on trade and business confidence.

"The bond market has reacted more powerfully than the equity markets over the last several months, both in anticipation of Fed news and when it comes to global growth worries," said Thooft.

The bond market is usually seen as the more sober one when it comes to assessing economic trends, rather than the stock market, but Thooft said the movement in bond yields may have been overdone.

## IS THE TRADE WAR ALSO

## MOVING MARKETS?

Yes. Optimism is rising that the world's largest economies can make progress on their trade dispute when the U.S. and Chinese leaders meet at the Group of 20 summit next week. Trump's tweet announcing the meeting earlier this week helped send the S&P 500 to one of its better days of the year, up 1%.

## AREN'T THE TWO THINGS MOVING MARKETS MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE? IF THE TRADE WAR GETS RESOLVED, WILL THE FED STILL CUT RATES?

If Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping make so much progress that a deal seems near, Fed policymakers may not cut rates, or at least not in July. But few economists expect much progress will be made. Most analysts say that the most likely outcome is that the two sides agree to schedule talks. It's not clear whether Trump will suspend his threat to slap more tariffs on the remaining \$300 billion in Chinese imports that haven't yet been taxed.

Even if the Trump-Xi meeting goes well, the effects of Trump's trade fights with Europe and Mexico, as well as China, will likely linger. U.S. farmers have been hurt by retaliatory tariffs imposed on agricultural exports and U.S. business investment has slowed, as companies delay planned expansions amid greater uncertainty. □

# US home sales climbed 2.5% in May amid lower mortgage rates

By **JOSH BOAK**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — U.S. home sales jumped 2.5% in May, as lower mortgage rates appeared to help buyers overcome affordability challenges.

The National Association of Realtors said Friday that existing homes sold at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.34 million last month, up from 5.21 million in April.

The recent gains likely came from reduced borrowing costs that made it easier to finance a home.

Rates for the 30-year mortgage are averaging 3.84% this week, down sharply from 4.57% a year ago, according to the mortgage buying company Freddie Mac.

Still, the real estate market has yet to shake off last year's slump. Home sales fell 1.1% from a year ago.

The faster pace of sales also boosted prices. The median sales price in May was \$277,700, a 4.8% increase from last year.

More homes have come onto the market in the past

year, but it's been insufficient to inject a meaningful amount of inventory that would give would-be buyers more choices.

Sales listings have increased 2.7% from a year ago to 1.92 million homes. But the market contains a mere 4.3 months' supply of properties, well below the six months that were once deemed to be a sign of a healthy market.

Over the past year, homes prices between \$250,000 and \$750,000 experienced the strongest sales growth.



This June 13, 2019, photo shows a house with a "sold pending" sign fixed on the realtor's sign in northeast Jackson, Miss.

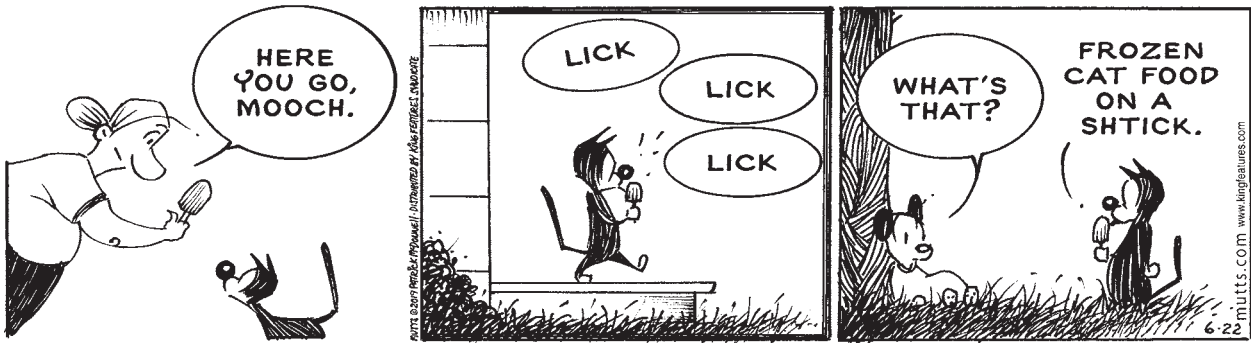
Associated Press

But sales of homes at cheaper price points have been flat or falling, a sign

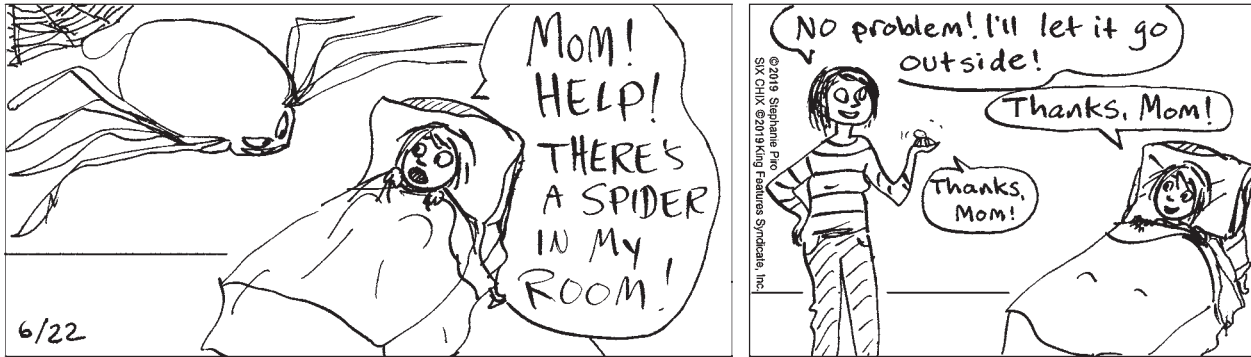
that the lack of entry-level homes has been an obstacle for would-be buyers. □



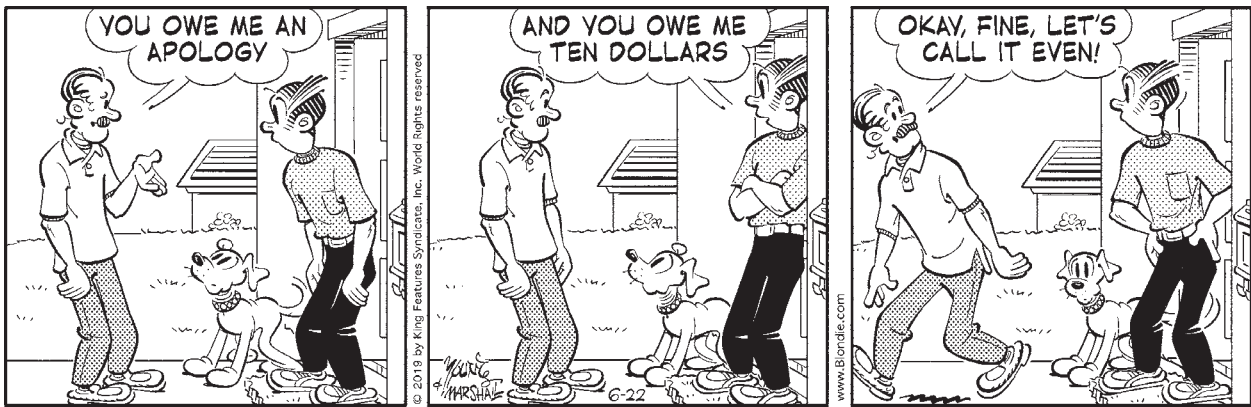
## Mutts



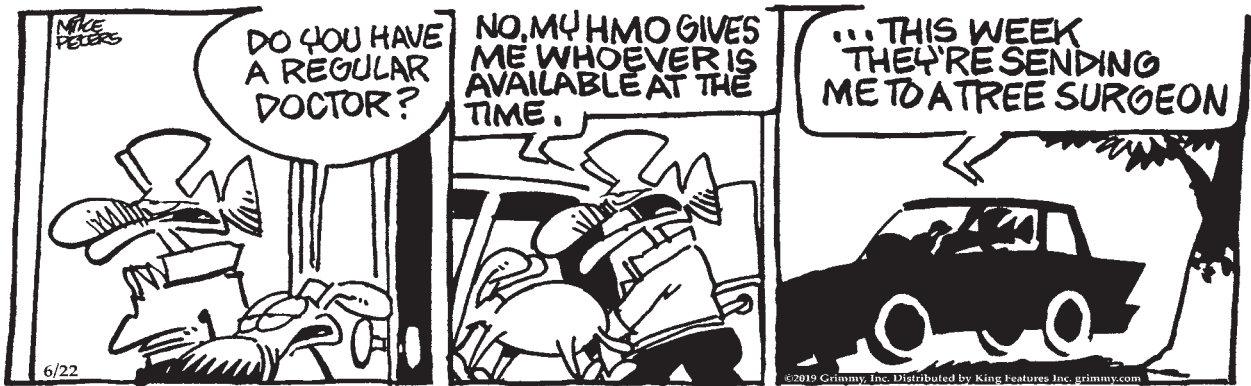
## 6 Chix



## Blondie



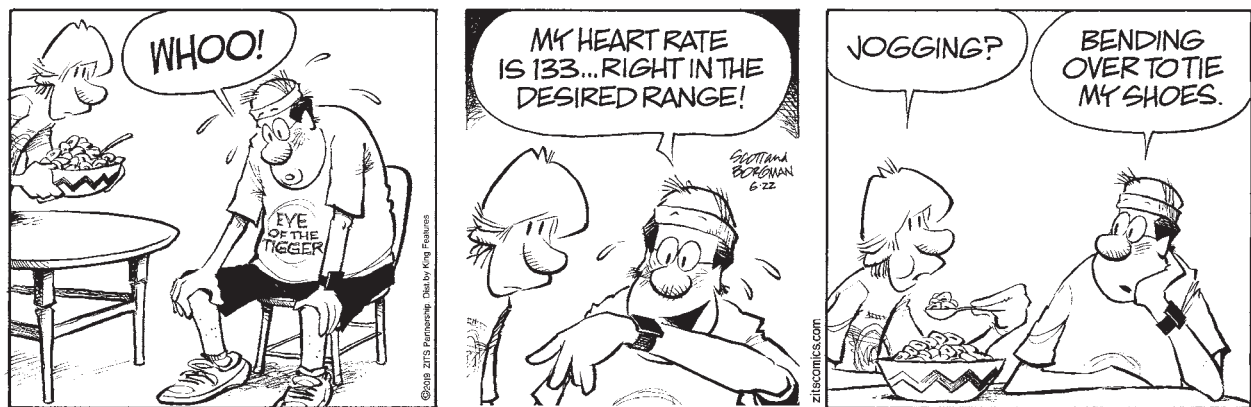
## Mother Goose & Grimm



## Baby Blues



## Zits



## Conceptis Sudoku

6		8	5		9	4		
	4	7	1	6		3		
9								
					8			
		4				1		
			6					
								2
		3		8	5	7	4	
		1	4		7	5		6

Difficulty Level ★★☆☆

6/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

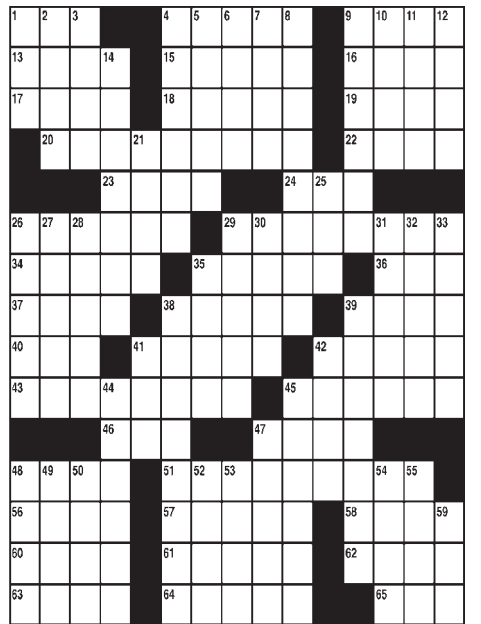
6	9	5	4	2	3	8	7	1
7	8	2	1	6	5	3	4	9
3	4	1	9	8	7	5	2	6
9	3	8	7	4	1	2	6	5
4	2	6	5	9	8	1	3	7
1	5	7	2	3	6	4	9	8
2	7	4	8	5	9	6	1	3
8	1	3	6	7	4	9	5	2
5	6	9	3	1	2	7	8	4

## ACROSS

- 1 St. Joan of \_\_\_  
4 Actor Joe  
9 "Once \_\_\_ a time..."  
13 Necklace piece  
15 John or Sean  
16 Leo XIII or Pius X  
17 Take \_\_\_ of; tend  
18 Virginia, for one  
19 Murdered  
20 Drunk  
22 Laying birds  
23 "That \_\_\_ it!"; cry of disgust  
24 Wedding vow  
26 Cause hurt feelings  
29 Ruining of another's plans  
34 Street talk  
35 Takes a survey  
36 Texter's giggle  
37 Lions & lynxes  
38 Furniture wood  
39 Lump of dirt  
40 "I \_\_\_ Rock"; Simon & Garfunkel hit  
41 Grand \_\_\_ of Luxembourg; small nation  
42 Selected  
43 Lets go  
45 Hail Mary, e.g.  
46 "Cheers" network  
47 \_\_\_ away; leave shore  
48 Injection  
51 Frog or newt  
56 Skirt style  
57 Eagle's claw  
58 Rowing team  
60 Go \_\_\_; review  
61 Standing straight  
62 Engrave  
63 Dancer Kelly  
64 Oozes out  
65 Heaven above

## DOWN

- 1 Top file drawer  
2 Rake in  
3 Jung or Reiner  
4 Glued  
5 Rob or Will  
6 Asterisk  
7 Refer to  
8 Unfit for consumption  
9 Result  
10 Vault's need  
11 Unlock  
12 Latest info  
14 Benums  
21 Melody  
25 \_\_\_ and don'ts; rules  
26 Actor's award  
27 Burst into \_\_\_; ignite  
28 Deadly  
29 Yrbk. section  
30 Friendly nation  
31 Metal blend  
32 Silly as a  
33 Firstborn of two  
35 Walk the floor  
38 Rich sweet wine  
39 Altar cup  
41 Tiny amount  
42 Baby's bed



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

6/22/19

## Friday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	L	R	A	Z	E	D	A	R	C	H
E	L	S	E	A	M	I	G	O	R	U	L
V	A	T	S	C	O	N	G	E	S	T	I
A	P	R	T	H	U	G	S	M	I	N	D
O	C	H	E	R	G	A	S				
M	A	N	U	A	L	P	O	R	T	A	L
A	D	O	P	T	T	R	E	A	T	L	O
R	I	M	S	S	H	O	A	L	S	T	A
S	E	E	S	L	I	T	S	G	L	E	N
U	R	A	N	U	S	C	O	A	R	S	E
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# Restaurants could be 1st to get genetically modified salmon

By CANDICE CHOI

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Inside an Indiana aquafarming complex, thousands of salmon eggs genetically modified to grow faster than normal are hatching into tiny fish. After growing to roughly 10 pounds (4.5 kilograms) in indoor tanks, they could be served in restaurants by late next year.

The salmon produced by AquaBounty are the first genetically modified animals approved for human consumption in the U.S. They represent one way companies are pushing to transform the plants and animals we eat, even as consumer advocacy groups call for greater caution.

AquaBounty hasn't sold any fish in the U.S. yet, but it says its salmon may first turn up in places like restaurants or university cafeterias, which would decide whether to tell diners that the fish are genetically modified.

"It's their customer, not ours," said Sylvia Wulf, AquaBounty's CEO.

To produce its fish, AquaBounty injected Atlantic salmon with DNA from other fish species that make them grow to full size in about 18 months, which could be about twice as fast as regular salmon. The company says that's more efficient since less feed is required. The eggs were shipped to the U.S. from the company's Canadian location last month after clearing final regulatory hurdles.

As AquaBounty worked through years of government approvals, several grocers including Kroger and Whole Foods responded to a campaign by consumer groups with a vow to not sell the fish.

Already, most corn and soy in the U.S. is genetically modified to be more resistant to pests and herbicides. But as genetically modified salmon make their way to dinner plates, the pace of change to the food supply could accelerate.



Peter Bowyer, the facility manager at AquaBounty Technologies, holds one of the last batch of conventional Atlantic salmon raised at the commercial fish farm in Albany, Ind., Wednesday, June 19, 2019.

Associated Press

This month, President Donald Trump signed an executive order directing federal agencies to simplify regulations for genetically engineered plants and animals. The move comes as companies are turning to a newer gene-editing technology that makes it easier to tinker with plant and animal DNA.

That's blurring the lines around what should be considered a genetically modified organism, and how such foods are perceived. In 2015, an Associated Press-GfK poll found two-thirds of Americans supported labeling of genetically modified ingredients on food packages. The following year, Congress directed regulators to establish national standards for disclosing the presence of bioengineered foods.

But foods made with the newer gene-editing technique wouldn't necessarily be subject to the regulation, since companies say the resulting plants and animals could theoretically be produced with conventional breeding. And while AquaBounty's salmon was produced with an older technique, it may not always be obvious when people are buying the fish either.

"Nobody uses that term," said Amy van Saun of the Center for Food Safety, who noted "genetically engineered" or "genetically modified" are more common.



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# AP-NORC poll: Asteroid watch more urgent than Mars trip

By MARCIA DUNN and EMILY SWANSON

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.

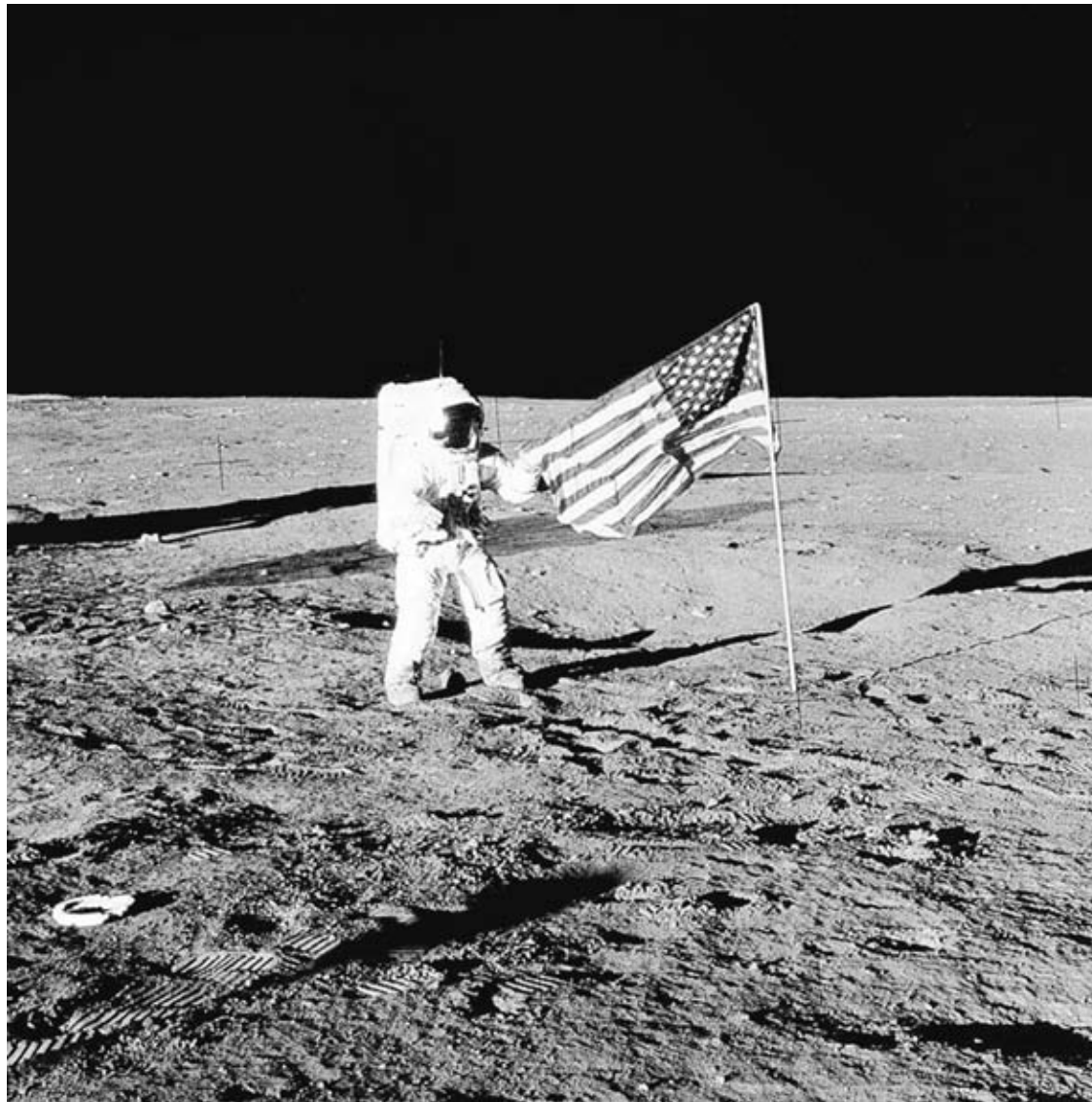
(AP) — Americans prefer a space program that focuses on potential asteroid impacts, scientific research and using robots to explore the cosmos over sending humans back to the moon or on to Mars, a poll shows. The poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, released Thursday, one month before the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing, lists asteroid and comet monitoring as the No. 1 desired objective for the U.S. space program. About two-thirds of Americans call that very or extremely important, and about a combined 9 in 10 say it's at least moderately important.

The poll comes as the White House pushes to get astronauts back on the moon, but only about a quarter of Americans said moon or Mars exploration by astronauts should be among the space program's highest priorities. About another third called each of those moderately important.

Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin on July 20, 1969, became the first humans to walk on another celestial body. In all, 12 NASA astronauts stepped on the moon.

Jan Dizard, 78, a retired environmental studies professor living in Chico, California, acknowledges there's more to learn on the moon and it would be "miraculous" to send astronauts to Mars. But now's not the time, he stressed.

"There are all kinds of other things, not the least of which is climate change, that deserve our attention," Dizard told the AP. "This oth-



In this Nov. 1969 photo made available by NASA, Apollo 12 mission Commander Charles P. "Pete" Conrad stands on the moon's surface.

er stuff can wait."

After asteroid and comet monitoring, scientific research to expand knowledge of Earth and the rest of the solar system and universe came next on the list of Americans' space priorities — about 6 in 10 said that was very or extremely important. Close to half said the same about sending robotic probes, rather than astronauts, to explore space, and about 4 in 10 said the same about continued funding of the International Space Station. Searching for life on other planets came in fifth with 34% rating it at least very important, followed by 27%

for human Mars expeditions and 23% for crewed moonshots.

In a dead heat for last place among the nine listed goals: setting up permanent human residences on other planets, with 21% ranking it as a very high priority, and establishing a U.S. military presence in space with 19%. While other goals were considered at least moderately important by majorities of Americans, about half called a military presence and space colonies unimportant.

President Donald Trump, who wants to create a Space Force as a new military service, said at a rally formally kicking off his reelection campaign this week that, if he wins a second term, the country will "lay the foundation" for landing astronauts on Mars. That came after a confusing tweet from Trump in which he said that NASA "should NOT be talking about going to the Moon" and instead focus on "much

bigger things" including "Mars (of which the Moon is a part)." NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine later explained that the moon can be used as a "waypoint" for Mars access.

Toni Dewey, 71, a retired clerical worker in Wilmington, North Carolina, said space exploration should benefit life on Earth and the explorers should be machines versus humans.

"It would cost a lot of money to send somebody to Mars," she said, "and we have roads and bridges that need repaired here."

As for the moon, Dewey noted, "We've been there." But Alan Curtis, 47, of Pocatello, Idaho, considers moon and Mars trips a top priority, especially if the U.S. is to remain a world leader in space. Compared with its feats of the 1960s and 1970s, the U.S. space program is now a second thought, he said.

"It's pretty bad that we have to rent a spot on a Russian spacecraft to get

to the space station," said Curtis, a store cashier who says he's an occasional bounty hunter. He pointed to the first-ever landing by a spacecraft on the far side of the moon, by China in January.

Abdul Lotiff, 28, a retail security company manager in Mason City, Iowa, also favors a return to the moon. He sees economic benefits there, with the resulting new tech spilling into areas outside the space business. In addition, he said, if and when Earth becomes overpopulated, the moon could serve as a springboard for humanity's expansion into space.

The survey asked Americans to directly choose between the moon and Mars for exploration by U.S. astronaut. The red planet was the winner by about double: 37% compared with 18%. However, 43% said neither destination was a priority.

For Americans under 45 — born after NASA's Apollo moonshots — Mars came out on top by an even larger margin: 50% prefer a Mars trip, versus 17% for the moon. A third said neither should be a priority.

For those 45 and older, 52% said neither Mars nor the moon should be a priority as a human destination. Of that age bracket, 26% preferred sending astronauts to Mars and 19% to the moon.

As for the White House's deadline of returning astronauts to the moon within five years — NASA is aiming for the water ice-rich lunar south pole by 2024 — about 4 in 10 Americans favored the plan, versus 2 in 10 against. The remainder had no strong opinion either way.

The good news, at least for NASA and its contractors, is that 60% of Americans believe the benefits of the space program have justified the cost.

In 1979 — on the 10th anniversary of the first manned moon landing — 41% of Americans said the benefits were worth the cost, according to an AP-NBC News poll. □

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# Bible underscores Lincoln's belief he was to end slavery

By JOHN O'CONNOR

Associated Press

**SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP)** — A Bible given to Abraham Lincoln in the final months of the Civil War ties together the 16th president's budding views on spirituality and his belief that God was calling him to end slavery as well as his widow's labors to solidify his religious standing, historians say.

The King James Bible was eventually given by Mary Lincoln to Noyes W. Miner, a beloved Springfield neighbor and a Baptist minister whose descendants donated it to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, which unveiled it to the public on Thursday.

The 18-pound (8-kilogram) volume has a cover of hand-tooled leather and gilt lettering, and is inscribed to the president from "the Ladies of the Citizens Volunteer Hospital of Philadelphia." Historians believe Lincoln received it on June 16, 1864, the day he visited the city for a fundraiser for the



Mike Casey, Exhibits Project Manager at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, moves the newly acquired Bible that belonged to Abraham Lincoln in his final year of life, into an exhibit at the museum following a press conference announcing its arrival Thursday, June 20, 2019, in Springfield, Ill.

Associated Press

U.S. Sanitary Commission, a private agency that raised money and recruited volunteers to care for the Civil War's sick and wounded. Lincoln had donated dozens of autographed copies of the Emancipation Pro-

clamation to the cause.

The gift is a boon for the library and museum, which has been beset in recent years by a political battle for control of the institution and its fundraising foundation's struggle to pay off a

debt of \$9 million that had gone toward the purchase of Lincoln memorabilia, including a stovepipe hat of dubious authenticity.

State historian Samuel Wheeler said the Bible binds Lincoln's developing spiri-

tual outlook and reliance on scripture to answer the ghastly questions posed by war with his widow's efforts after his April 1865 assassination to have him remembered as spiritual rather than as the religious skeptic he had been earlier in life.

"During the Civil War, there is an evolution that takes place in Mr. Lincoln's religious thoughts. He is searching for God's purpose. He's redefining his relationship with his maker, and he's trying to figure out what is God's purpose in this war," Wheeler said. "He believed that God was using him to end American slavery."

It's unlikely that Lincoln, who is known to have carried a New Testament and kept handy a daily devotional, used the "presentation" Bible for regular meditation, Wheeler said. But multicolored ribbon markers are distributed throughout the book, which Mary Lincoln told Miner her husband had placed when she gave Miner the book in 1872. □

# Naomi Wolf promotes new book delayed in the US by errors

By HILLEL ITALIE

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Naomi Wolf says she has no hard feelings about the BBC interviewer who pointed out errors in her new book, "Outrages," which has been delayed for release in the U.S. against her wishes.

"The bottom line is he did me a favor," she said Thursday night at the Strand Book Store in Manhattan. Asked by an audience member if she felt "humiliated," Wolf said that "in an ideal world" the errors would not have been in her book and that she felt "accountable" to her readers. "I'm glad that he brought them up," she said.

Wolf's book, originally scheduled to come out this week in the U.S., is an attack on the punitive treatment of gays in Victorian England. Her promotion for "Outrages" was upended last month, when the BBC's Matthew Sweet challenged some of her find-

ings, notably on how often the death penalty was applied.

Wolf's U.S. publisher, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, subsequently postponed the book's publication, along with her U.S. tour, making the event at the Strand somewhat of a rebellion. Wolf and Strand owner Nancy Bass Wyden are old friends and agreed she should appear as planned. Wolf had previously chastised her publisher for the publication delay, saying she had made the necessary corrections.

"I strongly objected to this decision," Wolf, who has been criticized frequently over the years for inaccuracies, tweeted June 14.

But on Thursday, Wolf acknowledged she had made mistakes and otherwise made no criticisms of her publisher.

In announcing the postponement last week, Houghton Mifflin cited "new



In this March 29, 2012, file photo, author and political consultant Naomi Wolf speaks to reporters during a news conference in New York.

Associated Press

questions" that had arisen about the text. Houghton Mifflin declined to be more specific when asked by The Associated Press and declined comment on Wolf's decision to continue promoting her book. Wolf, in an email earlier Thursday to the AP, also declined to discuss the additional

questions and said she "remained committed" to her book's U.S. release. She said that she was "in communication" with Houghton Mifflin and had no intentions of finding a new U.S. publisher.

Having returned the U.S. editions to Houghton Mifflin, the Strand was sell-

ing copies of "Outrages" already published in the United Kingdom by Virago. Around two dozen people turned out on a muggy, rainy night to see the author, whose previous books include such bestsellers as "The Beauty Myth" and "Misconceptions." She was interviewed by the author and editor Will Schwalbe, whom she has known since attending Yale University together in the 1980s.

Asked by Schwalbe what she hoped readers would take from "Outrages," Wolf said she hoped it would bring new attention to its central figure, the British poet and cultural historian John Addington Symonds, a gay man who spent much of his adult life married to a woman before finding love with another man in his final decade.

"He just didn't give up on love," Wolf said. "And I think that's a universal message." □



# "5B" documentary tells story of pioneering AIDS caretakers

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — The impact of San Francisco General Hospital's ward 5B — the first hospital division dedicated to treating people with AIDS — has far outlasted its existence. The ward, which opened in 1989, is the focus of a new documentary, "5B," which has nurses, patients, and supporters recount the fight for non-discriminatory health care for those diagnosed with AIDS until 5B

transitioned to treating a broader spectrum of patients in the late 1990s. "I'm kind of speechless because it does evoke so much of that time period for me," said Alison Moed, the former nurse manager on the ward. Now, when she watches the film, she feels hopeful. That wasn't always the case. "I was a little cautious" she said about being approached to participate in



Alison Moed, left, and Halle Berry attend the U.S. premiere of the documentary Film "5B" during the opening night of LA Pride Festival on Friday, June 7, 2019, in West Hollywood, Calif.

Associated Press

the documentary. "I wanted to be sure that it was an experience that would be handled accurately, carefully, and even lovingly." Guy Vandenberg, a former 5B nurse, said he was also reticent about participating. "It's a hopeful story, but we had our reservations about doing the film when we were asked, because

we didn't actually want to relive that," he said. "We didn't want to make a film about the past." In the film, Vandenberg cries as he discusses the pain that comes with memories of caring for patients, including his own partner Steve Williams. Williams, who is a 5B AIDS survivor, said watching the film and revisiting that time

in his life also brings tears. "By the third time (I saw the documentary), I was balling throughout the whole thing," he said. "It's really hard to look at but it's such a wonderful story." The nurses and doctors who volunteered to work in the ward decided to take a more holistic approach to treating people with AIDS than was the standard.

# 'Cinderella' film feted at Library of Congress



Costumed Cinderella and Majordomo appear before guests at an event marking the inclusion of Disney's "Cinderella" into the National Film Registry on its 70th anniversary, Thursday night, June 20, 2019 at the Library of Congress in Washington.

Associated Press

**By OSCAR WELLS GABRIEL II**  
**Associated Press**  
**WASHINGTON (AP)** — No one arrived in a horse-

drawn carriage. But there was valet parking for the guests invited to a "mini-ball" held at the Library of

Congress in honor of the Disney film "Cinderella." The Thursday evening event featured a costumed Cinderella character, who descended the library steps to the cheers of a crowd of children and adults, including some members of Congress and their families. Before Cinderella made her grand entrance, hundreds watched a screening of the Disney classic animated movie, released 70 years ago. The Library of Congress recently added the film to the National Film Registry.

Attending a brief ceremony to mark the honor were Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden and Mary Walsh, director of the Disney Animation Research Library.

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PH	MON-THU 4:55	7:15
	FRI 4:55	7:15
	SAT 2:35	4:55
	SUN 2:35	4:55

PBP	MON-SUN 6:55
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CXC	MON-THU 4:00	6:25	8:50
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	SAT 1:40	4:00	6:25
	SUN 1:40	4:00	6:25

PBP	SAT-SUN 12:55
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SPANISH	MON-THU 5:25	7:45
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PH	MON-THU 4:30	6:35	8:40
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	SUN 3:15	5:50

PBP	MON-FRI 4:20	9:20
VIP	SAT-SUN 1:50	4:20
	FRI-SAT 10:00	

PBP	MON-THU 5:45	8:20
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PBP	MON-FRI 4:00	6:00
	SAT-SUN 2:00	4:00

PH	MON-FRI 3:40	6:25
	SAT-SUN 12:55	3:40



# Shania Twain set to party again in Vegas with new residency

By MESFIN FEKADU

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Since Shania Twain launched her first residency in Las Vegas seven years ago, Sin City has been invaded with contemporary pop stars, from Lady Gaga to Drake to Christina Aguilera, jumping on the residency trend. Even Cardi B has plans for a short-term Vegas residency this year.

"I know! What are these people (doing) jumping on my bandwagon?" a smiling Twain said as she announced her return to Vegas for a new residency, starting Dec. 6. "Everybody knows that Vegas is awesome and it's only getting better."

Twain, of course, follows in the footsteps of other Las Vegas stalwarts over the decades, from the Rat Pack and Wayne Newton to Cher and Celine Dion.

On Monday, the queen of country pop announced 23 performances for her "Let's Go!" residency at Zappos Theater at Planet



Shania Twain poses for a portrait at her Manhattan hotel, Friday, June 14, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press

Hollywood Resort & Casino. Tickets go on sale Friday. Britney Spears, Bruno Mars, Mariah Carey, Calvin Har-

ris, Janet Jackson, Jennifer Lopez, Aeromsith, Boyz II Men, Pitbull, Gwen Stefani and Backstreet Boys are

just some of the acts who have bombarded Vegas with long and short-term residencies since Twain

wrapped her first two-year stint in 2014.

"Not everybody gets invited to do a residency and certainly not a long-term residency. It's one thing to go and do six shows or something like that, but when you're in a long-term residency, it's a commitment," she said. "A really big commitment."

After Vegas, Twain went on traditional tours — in 2015 and 2018 — but said there's a plus side to performing at the same venue every night.

"You can really take advantage of the highest standard technology that is usually too sensitive to take on the road and travel. You can't pack it up and take it down every day. So it's a production dream, Las Vegas," she said.

"And also, it's just great for my voice to be able to be stabilized in an environment that I can control. And I really appreciate that these days with all my Lyme disease voice issues." □

# Nashville-based country stars love to play tourist at home

By KRISTIN M. HALL

Associated Press

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)** — Tourism comes alive in the Music City during summer, but the thousands who flock here aren't the only sightseers in town.

Many Nashville-based stars enjoy playing tourist, too.

"I've been to the Country Music Hall of Fame a few times and ... you always learn something new," Russell Dickerson told The Associated Press. "You can't take in all that information at one time going, but like seeing some of Elvis's old Cadillacs, like are you kidding me? It's crazy."

He doesn't mind the attention from fans while he's out visiting Nashville landmarks. "Everybody is super nice and we just take a little picture, say 'What's up?' and it's all good," said Dickerson.

Hunter Hayes said in an AP interview that he constantly goes to concerts in Nashville when he's not on the road.



In this May 25, 2018 photo, visitors to the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

"I realize that I'm here all the time, which is hilarious," he said. "But I just. Yeah I love the energy of the city. I think we all do. You know

once we moved here, I was like 'Oh my gosh, it's so crowded' and then we realized but there's a lot of cool things happening."

Morgan Evans and his wife, Kelsea Ballerini, have been rediscovering the city by foot lately and enjoying the sights downtown.

"It's like one of our new favorite things to do since it started warming up," Evans said. "After dinner we'll just go for a walk around town and it's so cool. You know, like a weeknight, you walk around and it's a good reminder that you get to. . like we get to live here. Music City. You know, Broadway is right there and the Ryman Auditorium is right there and the Hall of Fame is right there."

And yeah, I mean we love living in Nashville so much, so that's kind of our new thing."

Sometimes, though, it's just good to be home.

Tyler Rich said he doesn't get out much when he's in Nashville but likes to do touristy things in other cities when he's on the road.

"I have a weird thing where I like to go to zoos," Rich said. "I love zoos. I like to go and just hang out and see all the animals. And any type of history. I like museums and I'm a dork. But it's cool." □



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